Sunday, October 17, 2010 ★★ 19 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 211 P33

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER Poinsettias and plants adorn in the joyful colors of Christmas usher in the holiday season in the 18-day garden show ending today at the University of the Philippines Los Baños in Laguna that showcases the resilience of its plant industry in the midst of a series of typhoon and financial crises. (Story on page A28) MIKE ALQUINTO/INQUIRER.NET

Pointers: How to weather typhoons

BEFORE THE STORM:

- Keep note of emergency hotlines in your area. Hotline numbers are: 734-2138, 734-2120, 911-5061, 913-5660 (National Disaster Coordinating Council); 527-8130 (Coast guard); 16220 (Manila Electric Co.); 136 (Metro Manila Development Authority); 143, 527-8000 (Philippine National Red Cross); 911-4101 (Department of Social Welfare and Development); 117 (Philippine National Police); 1626 (Maynilad).
- Store an adequate supply of food and clean water. Prepare food that need not be cooked.
- Keep flashlights, candles and battery-powered radios within easy reach. Should you need to evacuate, bring clothes, first aid kit, candles/flashlight, battery-powered radio, food, etc.
- Examine your house and repair its unstable parts.
- Harvest crops that can be yielded already.

POINTERS, A-17

'Juan' roars to N. Luzon

Signal No. 4 poised in affected areas

By Kristine L. Alave

TYPHOON "JUAN" has gathered more strength and momentum as it hurtled toward the east coast of northern Luzon, raising the possibility that Storm Signal No. 4, the highest alert, may be declared in the affected areas, the Pagasa weather bureau said yesterday.

Pagasa chief weather forecaster Robert Aurel said Juan (international name "Megi") entered the Philippines' area of responsibility at about 1 a.m. yesterday and was moving west northwest. Public storm signal warnings are to be raised today.

As of 7 last night, Juan was 770 kilometers east of north Luzon.

Juan is now expected to make landfall on the eastern coast of Cagayan tomorrow morning instead of the afternoon, said Pagasa senior forecaster Mario Pallini.

The eye of the typhoon will track the provinces of Cagayan and Kalinga. It is expected to exit Ilocos Norte tomorrow afternoon, Pallini said.

If the typhoon moves lower to Central Luzon, "one of the scenarios is it will indirectly affect Metro Manila," Pagasa deputy

JUAN', A-17

Maria Paz: A love story to end all love stories

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

DURING THE WAKE for Maria Paz Ballesteros Laurel Tanjangco, stockbroker, real estate developer and businesswoman, many of the mourners expressed admirations for her tenacity, her business acuity and her grace.

To her family, she was not only all that but also the love story to end all love stories.

The young Paz lost her first husband, the race-car driver Arsenio "Dodjie" Laurel, in 1967, and she promised her five children—Luis Carlos, Maria Asuncion, Maria Paz Farah, Maria Isabel and Juan Miguel—that she would not remarry until they were all settled.

In January 1993, two months after Isabel, her last unmarried child, was wed, she married lawyer Manuel "Manny" Stonny Tanjangco.

The courtship had lasted 25 years. Paz was then 54.

"Her children are my children, her grandchildren are my grandchildren," Manny was quoted as saying on the day of the wedding.

As a young widow, Paz attracted many suitors. "There was a general, a

PAMBA MZ, A-13

25-YEAR COURTSHIP: Paz and Manny Tanjangco

House OKs Noy's ₱1.6-T budget for reform programs

By Michael Lim Ubac

AFTER A 17-hour marathon session, the House of Representatives in the early hours of Saturday passed on second reading the national budget for 2011, giving President Aquino a ₱1.645-trillion fiscal arsenal to fight poverty and pursue his campaign promise to take the country on a "straight path."

With only Minority Leader Edcel Lagman registering an objection, the chamber finally voted to adopt the proposed General Appropriations Act of 2011 contained in House Bill 1301.

"The ayes have it," Deputy Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella announced the crucial vote at 3:03 a.m., just minutes before the chamber adjourned for a three-week break.

Euphoria engulfed the chamber as members congratulated each other, obviously pleased with themselves for having fulfilled their promise to the President to give him full congressional authorization to spend ₱1.6 trillion of taxpayers' money, giving him the financial wherewithal to achieve his programs and policies.

"We lost sleep, but kept our word," declared Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., as he thanked the body for a "decisive" vote.

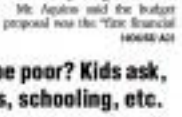
In his budget message to Congress, Mr. Aquino said he hoped to make a difference in the lives of Filipinos by coming up with a "redesigned budget" that will ensure that every centavo will be put to good use.

Mr. Aquino said the budget proposal was the "first financial

HOUSE, A-11

Why do we have to be poor? Kids ask, wish for food, books, schooling, etc.

By Terra Quimando



AS KERI JUBELLE English, 13-year-old Stella Mar Santos wrote her wish to the government: "I want to the poor people to have and dress and school requirements and money so that they have for buying foods."

An unnamed artist captured a familiar scene of young pupils holding classes under a tree. A message scrawled on the drawing read: "Equal right to good education. Improve antique facilities."

Jonemar Galban, a first-year Dumaguete City High School student, had a simple request: "I

WHY DO WE, A-11

FROM 'SAIGON' TO ROME Singer Lea Salonga delivers a speech on Friday in Rome after accepting her appointment as goodwill ambassador in the global fight against hunger. AFP

Lea Salonga: 'Imagine' world without hunger

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Entertainment

IT COULD very well be her theme, if not most significant, role on the world stage, in a 30-year showbiz career that has seen her draw rave reviews for her performances as Kim in "Miss Saigon," and as Eponine and Fantine in "Les Miserables."

Most Lea Salonga, acclaimed singer-actress, Inquirer columnist and now United Nations goodwill ambassador.

To mark the 30th World Food Day celebrations this year, Salonga—along with Oscar-winning actress Susan Sarandon, Italian actor Raoul Bova and Canadian singer Celine Dion—was appointed goodwill ambassador of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

At the appointment ceremony at the FAO headquarters in Rome last Friday, Salonga performed John Lennon's "Imagine."

In the audience were UN and FAO officials, Rwandan President Paul Kagame, Monsignor Renato Volante, Pope Benedict XVI's representative and the Vatican's permanent observer to FAO, diplomats, and fellow goodwill ambassadors Sarandon and Bova.

(Dion was unable to attend the Rome ceremony but accepted the appointment in a video address.)

"I sang 'Imagine,' after Josette Sheeran, executive director of the World Food Program, spoke about having a dream of succeeding in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. It was an appropriate pairing, one that I hadn't anticipated," Salonga, who was still in Rome, said in

LEA SALONGA, A-11

• **Latest city** sport: Spot-Noy-on-a-date • Baguio for non-tourists: the book shop, garden—and that raisin bread SUNDAY LIFESTYLE • **Pope Benedict** may elevate Cebu Archbishop to Cardinal NEWS • **Bamboo is** new cotton, also a trendy bike for eco-friendly set • 6 ways for manufacturers to cut waste through packaging • Dump your disposables here and put them into service again for needy SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2010

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/49	18 10
4D'S	5 11
	2 31
SUERTRES 3D	9 2 3
	4 8 5
	9 8 8

SIX DIGIT	6 8 4 6 7 2
6/42 LUZ-MIN-MIN	01 03 08 22 24 29
	P3,053,915.20
6/55 GRAND LOTTO	02 21 28 36 40 51
	P236,691,122.40

GMA unfazed by truth body

IN THE KNOW: Meet the members

THE TRUTH commission is chaired by former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., with former College Dean Merlin Bach Soonera, Carlos Medina and Bernardo Guerrero as members.

Davide

Davide was appointed associate justice of the Supreme Court in January 1995 by then President Fidel V. Ramos, and as the Philippines' 20th Chief Justice in November 1998 by then President Joseph Estrada. In 2001, he presided over the impeachment trial of Estrada, and, following the latter's ouster, swore in then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President. He received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service in 2003 and retired from the Supreme Court in December 2005.

In 2007, Davide was named the Philippines' representative to the United Nations. He quit the post in April 2010 to back his son's campaign for governor. He also publicly endorsed the presidential candidacy of then Sen. Benigno Aquino III.

A 1959 law graduate of the University of the Philippines, Davide was elected delegate to the Constitutional Convention and eventually chair of the Batasang Pambansa under the opposition Pusyon Bisaya. As constitutionalist, Davide challenged the Marcos dictatorship by filing resolutions calling for the lifting of martial law and initiating inquiries into alleged government irregularities and human rights violations.

Calleja

As Arroyo appointee, Calleja served as Supreme Court associate justice from September 2002 to April 2007. He was a member of the fact-finding committee formed by the high court to look into bribery and other irregularities involving Court of Appeals justice handling the Manila Electric Co. ownership case. Calleja also earned at the Manila Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals. He earned his law degree from San Beda College.

Romero

Before being appointed associate justice of the high court and serving from October 1991 to August 1996, Romero was special assistant to then President Corazon Aquino. She earned her law degree from UP in 1952 and her master's and doctorate degrees from Indiana University in 1955 and 2000, respectively.

Medina

Now executive director of Ateneo Human Rights Center, Medina teaches constitutional law and human rights law at Ateneo Law School and international relations at Ateneo School of Government. He is also secretary general of the Working Group for an Ateneo Human Rights Mechanism and convenor of the Legal Network for Truthful Elections. Medina earned his law degree from Ateneo Law School in 1984 and Master's degree in economics and political science in 1986, and his master's degree in public administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in 2002.

Guevarra

Guevarra is a senior partner of De Borja Medialdea Bello Guevarra law firm and a faculty member of Ateneo Law School. He placed second in the 1985 bar examinations and was a member of the technical staff of the Constitutional Commission that drafted the 1987 Constitution. Guevarra, chairman, Inquirer research

Sources: Supreme Court; Ateneo School of Law; Inquirer Archives

Ex-president takes wait-and-see attitude toward Davide commish

By Christian V. Esguerra

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is unfazed at the prospect of being the main target of the truth commission's investigation into alleged cases of corruption during her nine-year rule.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson, her chief of staff and spokesperson, yesterday said Arroyo, who is now a House representative for Pampanga, has yet to sit down and discuss the matter with her people.

"They are aware that it's not an immediate concern," Hero said in a phone interview.

Asked if Arroyo was bothered that the hearings of the five-person commission headed by former Chief Justice Hilario Davide could now turn a notch later, Hero said, "No."

Hero said Arroyo's camp was adopting a wait-and-see attitude, noting that the commission has yet to hurdle a petition questioning its legitimacy before the Supreme Court.

He pointed out that the body—which is patterned after 17 similar commissions set up in Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia—has yet to receive any funding from Malacañang more than two months after it was officially created.

"Let's see how they will roll. Will they roll up, down, sideways? Let's see how they will work, how they will progress," she said.

Members of the commission faced the media for the first time on Friday, announcing that they had officially begun work even in the face of a petition filed by House Majority Leader Edcel Lagman before the high court to declare the body unconstitutional.

Florida Romero, a retired Supreme Court associate justice who is a member of the commission, said the body was just "laying down the groundwork, hopeful that the Supreme Court will render the petition moot and academic."

Issued by President Aquino last July 31, EO 1 created the commission and gave it until Dec. 31, 2012 to complete its inquiry and issue recommendations.

ARROYO: Let's see how they roll.

The commission was specifically tasked to "investigate reports of graft and corruption of such scale and magnitude that shock and offend the moral and ethical sensibilities of the people committed during the previous administration by officers of the third level and higher."

Since 86, Aquino announced his plan to create the commission in his June 30 inaugural address, the body has been besieged with questions on how effectively it can function considering that many of the cases it investigates take up had been the subject of congressional inquiries.

The commission sought to answer many of those questions in its "introductory pattern" covering its functions, logistics and rules of procedure.

Among the objectives of truth commissions are "to contribute to justice and accountability, outline institutional responsibility and recommend reforms, and promote reconciliation and reduce conflict over the past," the commission noted.

"If past abuses are simply forgotten or ignored, they will reemerge later and exercise to prevent a society from fully moving on," it said.

"Victims in particular and society in general have an inherent right to the truth, and the state has an obligation under international law to seek and find and to make public the truth about past abuses," it said.

Ang #1^ Laundry Brand ay Fabric Conditioner na rin!

Lim, Magtibay told: Stop finger-pointing

By Norman Bordadora

AFTER HAVING a quiet end to an embarrassing event, Malacañang yesterday rallied on Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and former Manila Police District director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay to stop their blame-hurling as the two publicly quarred over who had the greater responsibility for the bungled rescue of Hong Kong hostages in the Quirino Grandstand on Aug. 23.

Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said that Lim and Magtibay should just stay their pens in their defense when they are tasked before the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) case) and the National Police Commission (for Magtibay) on administrative charges.

Valte said President Aquino had already made a decision based on the Malacañang review of the report of the Incident Investigation and Review Committee. The review, laying aside the recommendations of the IIRC, urged the filing of misconduct and simple neglect charges against the local chief executive and great transgression and serious neglect of duty against the former chief of police.

"As far as the Palace is concerned, the President has already spoken. The recommendations have been given," Valte said even government can make it[illegible].

"As to the [illegible] and the exchange of allegations, there's a point for us to this. It would be better if they defended themselves in the proper forum when the proper charges have been filed against them," she added.

Magtibay, the general commander during the handling of the hostage crisis, said Lim was the one actually in control of the situation and indicated that the Manila mayor was to blame for the way the negotiations and rescue operations went awry.

The police general said he was set to file criminal charges against Lim, himself a former chief of the Manila police.

Lim, for his part, denied Magtibay's allegations and repeated his position that it was the ground commander who was responsible for the mess.

He backed out as Magtibay for making the allegations only 4 days later and not during the investigation conducted by the Palace-convened IIRC headed by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima that assessed the culpability of officials involved in the hostage situation.

Cebu's Bishop Palma likely to become RP's new cardinal

By Philip C. Tubeza

LORDS Cebu's shepherd is one of the country's new cardinals-in-waiting, Pope Benedict XVI, who will be formally announced as the archbishop of Cebu on Nov. 27, 2010.

Palma, who was archbishop of Palo, Leyte, before his appointment to Cebu, is a known environmentalist and human rights advocate.

He is also the national CBCP vice president and is known to have traditionally gone on to become presidents of the powerful bishops' conference.

While Quitorio said he would not "speculate" when Palma would be named a cardinal, Vatican experts in the Italian press have recently said that the Pope might hold a consistory, or name a new batch of cardinals next month.

But the Vatican does not automatically elevate to the College of Cardinals a successor to a cardinalatial see, especially if his predecessor is still below 80 years old, the age limit set for those who can vote in a papal conclave to elect a pope.

Cardinal Vidal will turn 80 in February. He will also remain administrator of the Archdiocese of Cebu until Palma's formal installation, which is expected to happen in three months.

ARCHBISHOP PALMA: Soon to be cardinal

Good bishop

"I was so happy [when I heard the news] because [Palma] is a good bishop. He is very unassuming, very humble and he fights for the environment," said Quitorio.

"In Samar and Leyte, he was one of those who led the protests against logging and mining. He was one of those who really stood up and no logging did not proceed in Samar," Quitorio said of Palma, who was bishop of Calbayog before he was named archbishop of Palo, Leyte, in 2000.

Palma was born in Dingle, Iloilo, on March 19, 1950, and is a graduate of the St. Vincent Ferrer Seminary in Jaro, which also produced the legendary Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and the first Filipino archbishop of the capital, Gabriel Reyes.

Palma finished Greek up through studies in the Dominican Order's University of Santo Tomas in Manila and the St. Thomas Aquinas Pontifical University in Rome. He graduated magna cum laude from both church institutions.

He was ordained a priest on Aug. 22, 1975, and became a bishop at the age of 47 when he was Cebu auxiliary bishop in 1997. He was named bishop of Calbayog in 1999.

SC questions UP Law document

By Nikko Dizon

THE SUPREME Court has disapproved the scathing statement of the University of the Philippines (UP) Law faculty which concluded that an associate justice had committed plagiarism, likening the accusation to a "verbal revolt" that cannot cause to be "broken."

In clearing Justice Mariano del Castillo of plagiarizing three international law experts in a court decision on the case of Vinuya v. Executive Secretary, the Supreme Court en banc ordered its ethics committee to carry over the signed original statement of the UP Law faculty "for its consideration" in a separate ethics matter.

In taking this move, the en banc noted that the original copy of the "accusing statement" of the 10th Law faculty members that it was signed not by 37 of the 81 faculty members whose names were on the document.

The "dummy" of the statement presented by lawyer Harry Roque in the committee hearings only had "Sgd." the abbreviation of "signed," beside the names of 36 faculty members, including Supreme Court Justice Presbitero Mendoza.

"As it turned out, the original statement was signed by only a minority of the faculty members on the list. The set of signatories that appeared like solid ranks in the dummy turned out to be holes in reality in the original," the en banc said in its 21-page decision dismissing the plagiarism case against Del Castillo filed by Roque and co-counsel Romel Bagares.

TOURS
Adams Express Travel

'We won't get in the way'

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG won't get in the way of Makati City Regional Trial Court Judge Oscar Pimentel's promulgation of the coup d'etat case filed against Magdalo soldiers in connection with the Oakwood Mutiny in 2003.

Pimentel's promulgation date stand even after President Aquino's sincerely proclamation in the case of the Magdalo members, including then Senator Antonio Trillanes IV.

"It's [court's] matter—the sanity and [unintelligible] of Judge Oscar Pimentel," said Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said of Pimentel's supposed to push through in rendering a decision on the case later this month.

"We won't interfere," she added in an interview over government-run radio station dzRB.

Hear better now!
Sountex

Number of RP nurses seeking US jobs falling

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NUMBER of Filipino nurses seeking jobs in the United States continues to decline, dropping by 36 percent in the third quarter of the year, a prominent labor leader said yesterday.

Former Sen. Ernesto Herrera, secretary-general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), said only 2,227 Filipino nurses took the US National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for the first time from July to September.

This is 1,255 fewer (or 36 percent lower) than the 3,182 nurses who took the exam during the same period in 2009, Herrera said.

He said that from January up to September, only 7,780 Filipinos nurses took the NCLEX, down 35 percent or 4,074 less than the 11,854 during the same period last year.

With these numbers, the TUCP expected some 5,000 fewer Filipinos nurses taking the NCLEX for whole of this year, said Herrera, chairman of the labor group's committee on labor, employment and human resources development.

The NCLEX is the licensure exam administered by the US National Council of State Boards of Nursing Inc. The number of Filipino nurses taking the test is considered the best indicator on the level of distance as to how many of them are opting to enter the profession in the US, Herrera said.

Unable to find jobs abroad, many Filipino nurses have temporarily sought employment in local industries, mainly services, while waiting for more gainful work in foreign labor markets, said Herrera.

"We now have thousands of registered nurses engaged in services that have nothing to do with their profession, working as customer service staff, baristas, cashiers, even kitchen-related operators," he said.

Herrera said the Philippine Nurses Association (PNA) earlier estimated at 200,000 the number of jobless nurses in the country.

The total of 37,405 nurses passed the board licensure exams in July. They are now competing for jobs with some 140,000 unemployed nurses," he quoted the PNA as saying.

Herrera said that the reported smaller number of Filipino nurses taking the NCLEX test follows a similar downward trend registered last year.

A total of 15,282 Filipino nurses took the NCLEX for the first time in the whole of 2009, down 5,364 or 26 percent from 20,736 in 2008.

The drop in the decline in the number of Filipinos exams seeking US employment, Herrera said, the Philippines remains America's largest supplier of new foreign nurses, after India, Saudi Arabia, Canada and Nigeria.

Since 2003, some 90,000 Filipino nurses have taken the NCLEX for the first time.

The Philippines is also the United Kingdom's third biggest supplier of new foreign nurses, after India and Australia.

EX-AFP chief named envoy to Brunei

PRESIDENT Aquino has appointed former Armed Forces chief of staff, retired Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, as the country's ambassador to Brunei, Malacañang announced yesterday.

The Office of the Executive Secretary has confirmed the appointment of Vice President Aquino III's ex-presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers concerns.

Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte also announced the reappointment of Ambassador Sou Weng as the Philippines envoy to Cambodia. Weng is a retired PNP general.

The appointments of Esperon and Weng, as ambassadors to the two member-states of the Association of Southeast Nations comes practically on the eve of the Asean Summit later this month.

Esperon took over as acting chief of staff from Gen. Delfin Bangit who retired early to June this year, shortly before Mr. Aquino took over as President.

President Aquino has since appointed Gen. Ricardo David as Armed Forces chief of staff.

Norman Bordadora

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Smart makes finals of Asian CSR awards

KUALA LUMPUR—Smart Communications Inc. is one of 13 finalists chosen from among 141 entries from 99 companies in 15 countries of the 9th Asian CSR Awards, to be held at the Crowne Plaza Mirasol in the Malaysian capital on Dec. 2 and 3.

Smart's employee wellness program, Take Smart Healthy U (Healthy U, Happy U," is shortlisted under the best workplace practices category of Asia's premier awards program on corporate social responsibility.

Lito Amat, president of the Philippine Association of Human Resource Management and Development Group, said in a statement, "A lot of people don't realize that wellness is more than just about losing healthy. It's also about being financially secure, having peace of mind, doing good, and making a difference in the communities we serve. Through Live Smart, we aim to help make our employees happier in and out of the office. This also helps the company because happier employees tend to be more productive," she said.

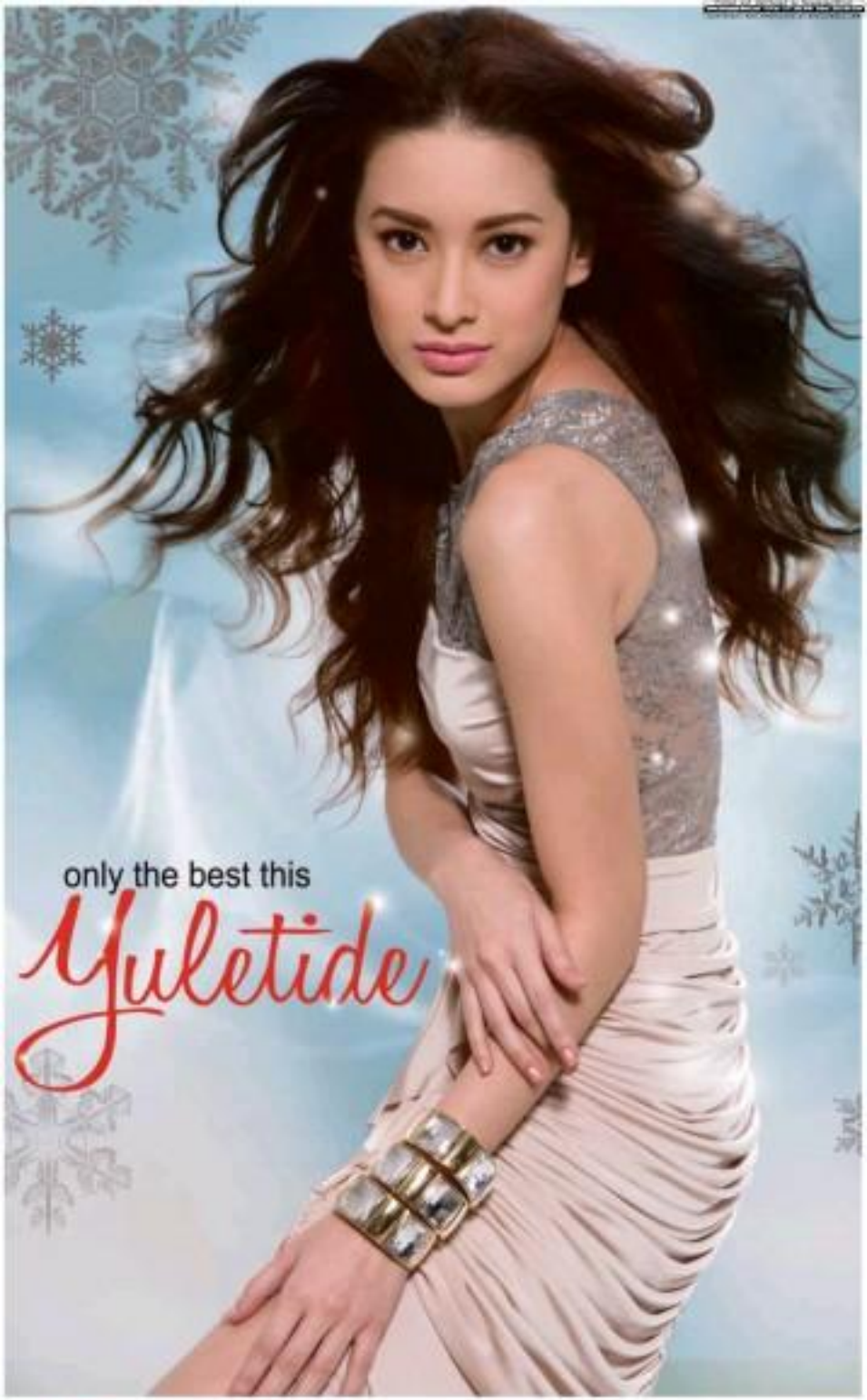
"Healthy U" consists of physical wellness programs that include weight loss challenges, wellness fairs, wellness menus and exercises, and sports festivals, among others.

"Healthy U" provides entrepreneurship opportunities for employees, spouses or managing finances, as well as employee discounts and promos.

"Happy U" supports 36 employee clubs and hobby groups featuring mountain climbing, photography, basketball, tennis, reading and singing, among others. It includes Happy to Help, a community service program wherein employees choose a partner organization for their volunteer activity.

The Asian CSR Awards recognizes and honors companies in Asia that have outstanding projects and programs in corporate social responsibility.

The five categories are best workplace practices, concern for health, environmental excellence, poverty alleviation and support, and improvement of education.



Robinsons Department Store

Firm removes Belo picture from arrival/departure cards

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE IMMIGRATION bureau of the arrival/departure cards at the country's airports has started removing the image of Aerosmiggler Vicki Belo from the immigration document and supervised will impose on recapitulate the terms of his contract with the Bureau of Immigration to suit the "national interest."

Mr. A.V. Lauerburg, president of vJournal Inc., an advertisement placement agency, said his company was willing to yield the terms of the 15-year contract with the new immigration leadership under Commissioner Ronaldo Lubiano despite the huge cost it incurred for the printing and distribution of such arrival/departure cards.

He said his company has retrieved the remaining immigration cards at the airports and resumed the removal of the Belo picture from the cards.

"We're agreeable to amend the terms of the contract to suit the interest of the government. If the BI found the Belo ad offensive, we're willing to replace the image," Lauerburg told the business in an interview yesterday.

He said the contract, signed in March 2009 and approved by then Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan, provides that the company has the right to "place any sponsors and advertisements which shall not be contrary to public morals or standards or compromise the image of the BI."

In exchange for this service, the cards are being issued by the company "at no cost to the government."

In addition, the company has been providing a document management and text retrieval system for the BI, a software to capture data or characters from the immigration cards and store them in computers that are linked to the BI's border control information system, all free of charge.

He said the cards being issued in Ninoy Aquino International Terminals 1, 2 and 3 bear a security mark or barcode which serves as the tracking number of each passenger.

Lauerburg said the company has been placing ads in newspapers such since June 2009. Among the featured advertisers are LBC, Smart, Robinsons Land, Dream Park, Philtan Properties, and Mitsubishi Lifts and Escorts.

He said the contract, dated October 20, 2008, the Belo Medical Group and Microsol-Intall of Asia are the featured ads at P5,200 to P2 per panel. One immigration card has three panels.

Lauerburg said the Belo ad can P400,000 a month, but stressed that there would be no problem in changing the Belo templates in the cards since the Belo group was paying on a monthly basis.

He likewise denied a charge by lawyer Ferdinand Macaliwal that the Belo ad was improper, if not morally illegal, as it gave an unfair advantage to Belo in the competition.

Lauerburg stressed that anyone can place advertisements in his company, in the same way that advertisements are being placed on the print and electronic media.

The immigration cards bearing the picture of President Aquino has been implanted.

MEDICAL ADVISORY

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***The importation of CFC-containing MDIs ended last December 31, 2009. Local distribution of CFC – containing MDIs in drug outlets is allowed until December 31, 2010. After the said end dates, importation and distribution of CFC-containing MDIs is considered unlawful as per FDA Circular No. 2009 – 004, dated November 5, 2009.

UAP

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EASTWESTBANK

Across the NATION

Mining doubles river's mercury level

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Tampakan environment office has sounded the alarm on the rising mercury content of the Pula Buro River, which could put in danger the health and safety of residents.

Ribnor Estrada, municipal environment and natural resources officer (Menro) of the gold-rich town of Tampakan in South Cotabato, said the rising mercury level was being caused by shaky mining in the villages of Danag, Palo Buro, Tablu and Palo 14.

In shaky mining, unlicensed small-scale miners pour large quantities of water on a mountain rather, to wash out rocks with gold ores.

The miners would then pan the ores and extract the gold using mercury.

Based on data gathered by Estrada's office, the increase in mercury level at the Pula Buro River—an important water source for the town's residents—started in 2008.

The data was backed by latest tests conducted by Environmental Impact Inc. Mines Inc.

Estrada said in November last year, monitoring done by her office showed that the mercury level in the river was 0.6 micrograms per liter, or double the allowable level of 0.2 micrograms per liter.

Estrada said in January, another test was conducted, which showed that the mercury level was 0.8 microgram per liter.

"That is way above the allowable limit," she said.

Estrada said the environment office was trying to remedy the problem by intensifying the crackdown on illegal mining activities in the hinterlands of the town.

Supt. Robin Pallasan, Tampakan town police chief, said since the crackdown started, police have arrested at least eight people engaged in shaky mining.

Pallasan admitted that illegal miners had persisted in their activities despite the police's seizure of some 10,000 metric tons of ore.

He said miners have thought of dozens of way to avoid detection, such as operating during heavy rainfall or at night.

Estrada said to boost their campaign, police outposts would be established in the four villages, where shaky mining was being conducted. *Aquilino Z. Zenia, Inquirer Mindanao*

Protestants, Left write to-do list for P-Noy

ILAGAN, ISABELA—Leaders of Protestant churches and militant groups cried to bring to President Aquino's attention a litany of demands, from an overt response to extrajudicial killings to charges in agrarian reform policies, adding their voice to a reception of Catholic Church complaints against his administration.

In a manifesto issued on Oct. 13, they said that they are "unswayed and unopposed" that Mr. Aquino has yet to address the "basic problems of Philippine society."

Basic issues

They referred to issues concerning "genuine agrarian reform, sufficient employment, just wages, nonconsumerbased education and health, a reinforcement on due care and nature crimes, a stop to oppressive taxes, fees and fines, and environmental degradation."

Among those who signed the manifesto were Fr. Feunisto Alisno, Protestant of Church and People's Response secretary general; Fr. Eric Lubag of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente; Bishop Melvin Abrasaldo of the PCPR; Fr. Clarence Dizi of the Episcopal Diocese of Santiago; Lay Bautista of the Synod Missionaries of the Philippines-Northern Luzon; Gretchen Valdez of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Cagayan Valley; and Daniel Alcayde of the Cenagagan Baptist Mission in Isabela.

Targets VFA

They said Mr. Aquino should abolish the Visiting Forces Agreement between the Philippines and the United States, claiming that it violated the constitutional provisions on the declaration of principles and state policies.

They urged him to stop mining and logging in the country and to nullify, through an act of Congress, the Mining Act of 1995, arguing it violated the sovereign and patrimonial provisions on national sovereignty and patrimony.

They also asked Mr. Aquino to repeal the Executive Compreshensive Agrarian Reform Program because it supposedly "legitimizes the ownership and control monopoly control of thousands of hectares of land by big landlords and foreign/transnational corporations."

"Instead, the government should enact and implement the genuine agrarian reform bill in the spirit of social justice," they said.

Murders unnoticed

In Baguio City, militant groups said Mr. Aquino should take note of the 16 activists and farmers who were murdered in the Cordillera this year.

Two more activists had been murdered in the Ilocos since June, said Jude Bugay, secretary general of the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance (CHRA).

Bugay said Mr. Aquino's quick-fix solution to the killings and enforced disappearances is to remove government troops, who have assigned to day-care centers and other campuses, despite rules prohibiting them from carrying in these areas. *Rhinner Hosaya Jr. and Desiree Caliwan, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

SHARING

Three men try to keep themselves dry during heavy rains in Cebu City by sharing what appears to be an oversized plastic sack as they cross the Kasambagan Bridge in the North Reclamation Area.

JOSE TORREMOCHA

PCSO won't stop STL, to issue new rules

By Kristle Ovejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office will not suspend Small Town Lottery (STL) in 21 provinces and four cities while it studies a set of new guidelines that will highlight the agency's avowed attempt to stop the illegal numbers racket "jueteng."

"We're not suspending [STL] [Operations are] going to be continuous," said Jose Melchor Bejar II, PCSO general manager.

But a PCSO source, who does not share the decision of the agency's top management, said it would help STL more with a clean slate if operations were stopped for the weeks it would take to formalize the guidelines. Operating STL operations now would paralyze jueteng, the source said.

In Thursday's Senate hearing, Bejar described the new STL guidelines as "more than sufficient to kill jueteng."

Joint investigations by Inter Senate committees looked into allegations that jueteng lords used STL as a cover to the illegal racket; that government agencies failed in eradicating jueteng; that jueteng should be legalized; and that the intervention of President Aquino protected jueteng.

The PCSO hinted that time put in features that Bejar admitted had been absent during the supposed "test run" since February 2008.

These include the issuance of receipts; the manufacture of online based lucky numbers that will do away with the papelitos (bet slips); requiring operators to report collections every draw; daily continuance of collections; and the opening of a separate bank account for prize money.

Protesters stop Davao stops tests, entry of GMO 'talong'

DAVAO CITY—The city government stopped the entry of genetically modified eggplants for possible violations of the city's code on sustainable agriculture.

Eggplants modified with the genes of the soil bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) were to be grown in test conditions at the University of the Philippines Mindanao campus here.

Lee Avila, head of the city agriculture office, said the testing will be done in an open area, which can contaminate other plants.

"It can be allowed if research activities are done in a very restricted environment," Avila said.

Mayor Sara Duterte has not exactly written Bt Mindanao chancellor Gisha Rivera, asking her to put a halt to the testing.

She cited the city ordinance on sustainable agriculture, among other reasons.

"The city government could not gamble on the damages that the Bt eggplant can inflict in the future," said the mayor.

"We stake on public health and environment are suspected ... we have adopted the position of Dr. Pradipa Mitra Bhargava, an Indian scientist and expert on genetically modified crops, which is to embrace the precautionary principle," she said.

Bhargava visited the city in September and attended a hearing on Bt talong.

During the hearing, Bhargava said "I would not recommend open field trials for Bt talong because that would be a disaster."

Duterte told Rivera there was "no compelling reason for us to welcome the Bt talong."

"The fruit and shoot borer pest can be managed by organic methods," she said.

Avila said the eggplant fruit and shoot borer can be effectively managed through natural methods.

"The fruit and shoot borer pest ... is said to be managed successfully by organic farmers using organic methods," said Avila.

"Such methods are known safe," he said. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao*

Negros case clear sign of gov't role in slays

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—Justice Secretary Leila de Lima has given assurances that nine soldiers would be prosecuted for the murder of a Bayan Muna member in Negros Occidental in a case that gave one of the clearest signs of government involvement in extrajudicial killings.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño announced De Lima and another official, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, as giving the assurances when Bayan Muna leaders met with them.

Colmenares quoted Estrada, spokesperson of the defunct Ejercito of the Philippines, as saying President Aquino had given orders to the military not to tolerate extrajudicial killings.

Last June 19, two motorcycle-riding men shot dead Benjie Bayles, 44, in Himamaylan City. Two suspects were arrested at a checkpoint in Kabankalan City later that day. They turned out to be government soldiers.

Colmenares and his group also tracking the movements of Dr. Leon and Mabasa with

> "Negros will have the honor of having the first extrajudicial killing solved ..."

guarded optimism.

"That is because we are coming from an atmosphere of mistrust based on the assertion of the past," he said. "But if they are going to make a showcase of the Bayles case, why not."

"Negros will have the honor of having the first extrajudicial killing solved," Colmenares said.

Colmenares recalled that Lt. Col. Nicanor Bayloss, 614 Infantry Battalion commander, initially denied that the two motorcycle suspects were soldiers and gave false names of the suspects.

The questions were first identified as Roger Rabino, 28, of Barangay Tiling, Canaynay, and Ronnie Canchera, 24, of Barangay Cayhagan, Bayday City.

But, on Oct. 9, Lt. Col. Roberto Samora, Army Adjutant General, denied reports that the two suspects were Pfc. Rabino Cochero and Pfc. Benjamin Lasa of the 61st Infantry Battalion of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

Colmenares said his group might file a case of obstruction of justice against Bayloss.

He said the two soldiers should also be charged with perjury for falsely identifying themselves under oath during their arraignment. An additional charge of illegal possession of firearms may be filed, too, said Colmenares.

COMMUNIST guerrillas organize an obstacle course in a training camp in Southern Mindanao. Association, or suspicion of being associated, with the guerrillas has become a death sentence in many parts of the country.

REUTERS

Village polls: Blasts kill 3 as voting nears

COTABATO CITY—Three persons were killed in separate explosions here and in Maguindanao, which authorities said were a sign of more bloodshed in the coming days as a result of elections for village and youth council positions.

One of the attacks was apparently directed at a certain Saudji Omar Gomos Ombrosa, a candidate for village chair in North Upi, Maguindanao. His number and two sons were wounded.

The attack on Ombrosa took place following another explosion in the house of a certain Allan Timpolan, a candidate for village councilor in Datumpay Tinompoan, also in South Upi, on Oct. 13.

Three were dead in that attack—Timpalan's wife Angelie and daughters Lauren and Apalim. Three of his other children—Arjel, Ninfil and Allanex...were wounded.

A CANDIDATE for youth council files a certificate of candidacy at the Commission on Elections office in Davao City.

Peace pact

In Davao del Sur, candidates in villages tagged as violence-prone signed a peace covenant on Thursday.

In Bambanga City, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman warned candidates against using national government projects to promote their candidacies.

"It would be tantamount to lying if you claim the project to be your initiative," she said.

Dr. Rodelio Aglosiin, Zamboanga City health officer, cancelled all medical missions in the city to stop the use of these activities for the campaign of village candidates.

101 arrests

Near Metro Manila, police said the start of the campaign period for village and youth council elections went on peacefully in Calabarzon.

Chief Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, Calabarzon regional police director, said by phone on Thursday police continued to monitor areas tagged as hotspots as the elections drew near.

He said 101 persons had been arrested, at least 55 firearms and four hand grenades were seized in the enforcement of the Commission on Elections' gun ban.

Police have tagged 58 villages in 26 towns in the Region as election hotspots.

Based on the police list, Mulanay has the most villages considered violence-prone.

While the village and youth council elections were supposed to be nonpartisan, local politicians were said to use these as proxy wars, according to Dr. Leodegario Jojo A. Ilagan of Montclair State University.

COMELEC Chair Jose Melo again leads himself busy months after the country's first automated national elections.

Tight races

A report by the Commission on Elections said at least three candidates are vying as young barangay and sangguniang kabataan (SK) chairs in each of the 3,552 villages in Central Luzon.

The number of candidates for village chairs and SK chairs in the 138 towns and cities in Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales totaled 11,747 and 9,456, according to the report released after the last day of filing of certificates of candidacy on Oct. 13. Edwin Fernandez, Orlando Diwa and Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao; Marivic F Dizon, Mar S. Arguelles and Ronald Time Quevedo, Inquirer Southern Luzon; and Estelle Trinka, Inquirer Central Luzon

SEE BACK PAGE OF FIRST BUSINESS SECTION

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Angat water inching closer to normal levels

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—After dropping to a historic low in April this year, water in Angat Dam rose to 179.66 meters above sea level (masl) on Friday.

The new level is a few feet closer to the normal reservoir figure that can ease competing uses as a source of drinking water for 18 million Metro Manila residents, irrigation for 25,000 hectares in Bulacan and Pampanga, and electricity for the Luzon grid.

While it may crush the dread 180 mark, Angat Dam could not automatically irrigate farmlands, said Rodolfo Lacuna, manager of the Angat Buhay Hydroelectric Power Plant (Ambuklao) of the National Power Corp. Ambuklao manages the 43-year-old dam in Nueva Ecija province.

"The matter will have to be decided by the (National Water Resources Board)," Lacuna said in a phone interview.

Nature's help

Natural rains, as well as artificial downpours generated by 140 hours of cloud seeding, have helped increase the level at the dam, which usually relies on the watersheds of the Sierra Madre mountain range in Bulacan, Aurora and Quezon provinces, he said.

The level dropped to 157 masl in April, the lowest in history since 1967, and authorities feared this to the long dry spell.

This prompted the NWRB to cut irrigation supply in the two provinces, causing protests from farmers and local officials.

But the NWRB has approved—due to the extension of the 10-day irrigation supply, according to Manuel Collado, director of the National Irrigation Administration in Central Luzon.

Angat irrigation waters were first released on Sept. 29. The release of 26 cubic meters per second will continue until Oct. 17.

Deal with farmers

"With what the NWRB has approved, the reservoir will be done after Oct. 17 based on weather situation," Collado said.

Bulacan Gov. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado and Pampanga Rep. Aniceto Bondoc have asked the NWRB to honor the assigned water rights to farmers and to compel the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System to stop its private concessionaires from expanding their service areas to Rizal and Cavite.

Alvarado has stepped up the Bulacan provincial government's rehorticulture and anti-logging campaign while Bondoc has helped rehabilitate Pampanga canals from local water groups.

The dam has been fed by the Umiray Transbasin, 30 km across the Sierra Madre range from Aurora and Quezon, since 1998. The Ipo Dam, 5 km below Angat Dam, takes in water to deliver to the La Mesa Dam in Quezon City. Only when the outlets to Bustos Dam are open will farmers get their irrigation shares.

WATER in the Angat Dam has risen close to its normal level of 180 meters above sea level.

PHOTO BY LYNDON BERMAS FOR THE INQUIRER

Dinky sees no evil in GMA tirades vs cash dole

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Former president and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's tirades against the increase in the budget of the government's conditional cash transfer (CCT) program to P21 billion must be part of her efforts to ensure that the program will succeed, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman said here Thursday.

At least 32 lawmakers—Arroyo included—had questioned the P21-billion funding that the Aquino administration has proposed for the CCT, which was aimed at giving cash assistance to some 2.3 million poor Filipinos.

"I'd like to think that the people certainly looking at the program really want to make it work," she told reporters.

Duties

Soliman said Arroyo and the other congressmen must be doing their "duties to ensure that the money that are going to be given to the poor are spent well."

"I think in the perspective that they want to help the very poorest as well but they want to make sure that we have the capacity to do so," she said.

Pushed for more maximum cash grant, Soliman strongly stood against CCT. Soliman, who was her social welfare secretary, said she would like to think also that it was part of Arroyo's job as representative of the people.

"If she has other motivations, then I could not do anything about it," she said.

Soliman also admitted that the CCT project was quite ambitious.

"But there are a lot of poor people and here comes the chance to help them," she said.

Overdue

Soliman said pouring more money on the CCT should have been done in the past.

"I think it is something that we should have done before and here we have the chance to make a difference for 2.3 million families for them to come out of intergenerational poverty," Soliman said.

In answering her former boss' assertion that the increase in the CCT budget was unfounded, Soliman said it was not the case.

She said the number of poor Filipinos grows by the day and immediate steps should be taken to help them.

Soliman said the budget for the CCT was tied to keep the effort would like it to appear.

"It is only 3.9 percent of the national budget," she said.

Soliman also said the Department of Social Welfare and Development was prepared to implement the program. Jaime Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Davao banana firm discovers beauty of organic farming

DAVAO CITY—A banana exporting company operating in Southern Mindanao has discovered the benefits of organic farming and its area devoted to non-chemical agriculture has grown since it adopted the practice.

Dr. Nenaly Cuevedon, vice president for research and information of the Tagum Development Corp. (Tadeco) banana plantation, said the area the firm has devoted to organic farming now totals up 5 percent of their 6,500-hectare plantation.

Tadeco mainly grows bananas in Davao del Norte.

Cuevedon told reporters here Wednesday that the number of farmers adopting the organic agriculture system also increased since the practice was introduced about two years ago.

"The plants are not easily stressed with the use of organic materials," Cuevedon said at the benefits of organic farming.

Dr. Alex Cardil, of Tadeco's agriculture operation division, said remained fertilizer was the main ingredient in their organic farms.

He said along with other cultivable agriculture practices, the yield in their organic farms was steadily growing.

"Bananas harvests in these Tadeco farms climbed to 5,000 boxes per hectare from 4,000 boxes per hectare compared to some 10 years ago," Cardil said.

Cuevedon said the only problem hounding their organic farms is the lack of vermicast supply.

"Vermicast fertilizers are literally the waste excreted by earthworms.

That was the main reason, he said, that the company limits its area devoted to organic farming.

Cuevedon said the company has started addressing the lack of vermicast supply by putting up a vermicompost project run by the families of Tadeco farmers.

He said this also created additional income opportunities for the farmers of Tadeco.

"Engaging into vermicast project in their own backyards would help augment the supply of vermicast and they will make more money," he said.

Tadeco bans each kilo of vermicast at P10, Cuevedon added. As this developed, the city government of Davao announced that it was finalizing the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the recently passed Organic Farming Ordinance.

Leo Avila III, city agriculturist chief, said the ordinance was aimed at institutionalizing organic agriculture in the city's farmers.

He said the IRR would be finalized before the year ends. Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao

Negros Occidental rural bank shut, operations stopped

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. on Friday ordered the operation of the Rural Bank of Hinigaran and its three branches in Negros Occidental after it was placed under receivership by the Monetary Board.

Atty. Roan Libarios, PDIC deputy executive, said PDIC took over the Rural Bank of Hinigaran head office in Hinigaran town on Friday and its branches in new cities, towns—Murcia and Valladolid,—and in Bacolod City.

"We have stopped all operations of the banks. No deposits or withdrawals can be made, and no loans can be granted," said Libay in a phone interview on Friday.

But Libay said she did not have details on why the Monetary Board placed the bank under receivership, as PDIC was ordered to take over only last Friday.

"PDIC is now looking into the affairs of the bank, its assets and is in charge of collecting loan payments to the bank," she said.

Depositors of the bank on Fri. day complained that they could no longer withdraw their money.

Many said a disposition of losses will be held at a date yet to be set.

The maximum insurance coverage for bank deposits is P500,000, she said.

The closure of the rural bank brings back to mind the last time that befell the Legacy Finance & Companies and several banks under it.

One of the banks under Legacy that closed, the ELSE Inc., had denied that Celso de los Angeles, the controversial founder of Legacy who is now in hospital arrest and facing dozens of criminal cases, was an investor in SEK, according to lawyer Oliver Ongchal, SEC ROB president.

Ongchal, who has been in the rural bank business for the past 20 years, has sought a temporary restraining order from the Court of Appeals against the receivership imposed on SEK by the PDIC and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). With a report from Gina Arnaldo-Sicat, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Hundred Islands: Always something new for visitors each day

PRACTICING what he preaches, Alaminos City Mayor Hernani Braganza does a diving salute prelude into the waters of the Hundred Islands National Park.

By Yolanda Isorena
Inquirer Northern Luzon

ALAMINOS CITY—No matter the season, even during off tourist months, the Hundred Islands National Park offers something interesting to nature lovers and visitors.

From afar, the brown or verdant islands look like prominences floating on and commanding with the blue vastness of the Lingayen Gulf.

Up close, there's more to see, smell, hear and touch to each of the 123 islands and islets that comprises the park.

"I have been working in the islands since 1982, but I still get amazed by everything that these have to offer. In fact, I still have to discover everything there is to discover," said Hernani Braganza, mayor of the city.

As a travel guide around the islands for about 30 years, there is always excitement in Mayor's voice as he describes how the islands looked like when he was younger. He would also talk about how these were ravaged by poachers and how the city government is trying to restore and preserve the islands' ecosystem.

"There used to be plenty of tourists on the island. "When coral gathering at Monkey Island. "In the mornings, they smoked shells along this narrow beach. We will also see them swimming from island to island."

Monkeys on the beach are a rare sight these days. Not one monkey padded out of the trees darting to every visit of the beginners.

Mayor Hernani Braganza said lucky visitors may also encounter whale sharks in the islands' waters. Just last month, he said two hammerhead sharks in the islands' waters. Just last month, he said two hammerhead sharks, stopped for two days in the Hundred Islands.

Another spectacle of nature happens on the islands starting October, when some trees begin shedding leaves. The islands turn from green to brown as November nears because most trees "die."

Natural response

City government personnel taking care of the islands said this is a natural response of the islands to changes in the environment, particularly the lack of water during the dry months.

Some trees never shed their leaves but a few hardly known as "bangar" to always the first to lose its foliage. The trees stay bare until rains come again and leaves sprout.

Cremox Island is a popular tourists stop because sunlight penetrating its cave mist various shades on the cave's floor and wall.

A statue of a girl atop welcomes visitors to the Governor Island's beach and cave. A section of the island serves as a hotspot.

Marine life abound in the islands, which were formed from clusters of corals. A study by the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute recorded about 199 species of fish in the islands.

At the Coral Island, fish have grown accustomed to humans and would welcome a treat of rice or bread.

The national park is also rich in flying creatures said to home to several species of birds.

17 species

An assessment of the park's flora and fauna conducted by the DENR showed that there are 57 bird species in the islands, including the Philippine duck (Anas luzonica) and the Asian spatuwar (Anas Penelope Sea tree bird), which are both listed as vulnerable under the Red List of Threatened Species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

The DENR surveyed 37 mainland, 52 satellite and eight endemic species on Governor's, Monkey and Cathedral islands, in the Pandan wetlands and coastline mudflats.

One of the most frequented is the Governor's Island, which has the highest peak that offers a panoramic view of the park.

Some 123 steps, the same number of islands and islets in the HINP were carved on the side of the hill leading to the peak.

"But this (number of steps) was not intentional. We just found out later that there were 123 steps," said Braganza.

Fireflies

Visitors spending the night on the island may also find themselves surrounded by fireflies. Tour guide Ley Linera said the island earns "magical," especially after summer rains, when trees sparkle with thousands of fireflies.

One uninhabited island is home to mangroves and a breeding ground of wild ducks, Linera said.

The DPWH said mangroves are one of the 170 species of plants in the Hundred Islands. Lanambon Island has the highest conservation of plant species at 137.

"I have been working in the islands since 1982 but I still get amazed by everything that these have to offer. In fact, I still have to discover everything there is to discover..."

INQUIRER Mindanao

Munai spice may be way out of war for conflict areas

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Munai, Lanao del Norte

DURING the 16th century, competition to control the source and trading route of spices resulted in wars among major colonial powers in Europe.

Today, the ornamental production of a Maranao condiment made of traditionally cultivated spices is helping rebuild the lives of villagers in the town of Munai in Lanao del Norte. The people have been constantly displaced by a conflict whose political underpinnings date back to that era of colonialism.

Pulapi is a condiment principally made of ground walliso bulbs locally known as *sibuyang* in Visayan or *sakurab* in Maranao. The thinly sliced swollen bulbs and ginger, *luy-a* in Hiligaynon, are caramelized by slow cooking and mixed with chillies and little coconut oil.

According to Salmen Ebalan, an enterprise development officer with the local government, pulapi is a regular feature of Maranao cuisine. It can come with whatever dish or even serve as main dish for families who are experiencing hard times, she said.

"In every Maranao kitchen, you will always find *sibuyang* and *luy-a*," Ebalan said.

Early recovery

Efforts to produce and sell pulapi started in 2007 among 25 women who formed the Munai Bilqis Producers Association. This initiative was boosted by assistance from the Action for Conflict Transformation for Peace Program (Act for Peace), a joint initiative of the government and the United Nations peacebuilders and non-state actors in Mindanao.

Help came in the immediate aftermath of the bloody attacks launched by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in the towns of Kauswagan and Kolambugan in Lanao del Norte in August 2008 following the botched signing of the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) that could have granted the Moro people a self-governance territory.

The agreement was struck down as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Act for Peace provided the early recovery assistance to the people of Munai who fled their homes and communities to safety.

Homegrown

Mirala said the pulapi came to mind as a product "we are really sure we are good at making."

"We also know there are only very few who are engaged in marketing pulapi," she added. Besides, the ingredients are easily available.

Farmers in eight barangays of Munai were given support so they can start planting *sibuyang* and *luy-a* in the hilly areas of their farms. The produce would be dedicated supply for the local pulapi producers.

Mirala said the local government also encouraged planting in the commercial gardens of the town's 26 barangays.

At a sign of a more determined push, the women's association registered before the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and received their certificate on July 27, 2009.

That year, the Munai pulapi gained the acclaimed local marketers and trade officials as a "most promising product" in the "One Town, One Product (OTOP)" fair in Lanao del Norte. This year, it was adjudged the "most improved product" and was among the acclaimed OTOP items in the Northern Mindanao Trade Fair and the Mindanao Trade Fair.

Challenges

At present, the group can produce 100 bottles of pulapi in a week, but the output is considered low. Mirala said much is related among members who are grouped in five.

Production remains at cottage level be-

COMMERCIAL production of the spicy Maranao condiment "pulapi" began, in bottle of "pulapi"... made of various spices... being sold at Madelicious Bakery in Iligan City. | CT ROSAURO

cause a processing center would require some P1.2 million. P500,000 for the building and P700,000 for cooking equipment. By then, the association would be able to apply for a certification from the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), which can further increase their marketing opportunities.

Because of the increasing popularity of the product, Mirala is apprehensive of the season's capacity to cope with larger orders.

Taking they also produce the *tyulo-a-siyag*, which is added with roasted coconut grate. Both are packaged in 250-gram bottles. Pure pulapi sells at P100 per bottle while retailed while *tyulo-a-siyag* costs P50 per bottle.

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Free

PRESIDENT Aquino's sweeping grant of amnesty to the more than 300 soldiers charged with mounting several attempts to take over government from 2003 to 2007 should be hailed. After all, these soldiers, among them an elected senator in Antonio Trillanes IV, a retired brigadier general in Danilo Lim, and a retired colonel in Ariel Querubin, have been in detention ever since those shore uprisings: the Oakwood Mutiny in 2003, the Marine standoff in 2006 and the Manila Peninsula siege of 2007, all of which were aimed at toppling the administration of then-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whose legitimacy was under a heavy cloud of doubt.

EDITORIAL

It is clear that President Aquino's Proclamation No. 50, once it is approved by the Senate and Congress, aims to bridge the gap of mistrust between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the civilian government, a gap that became patently obvious during the military mutinies during the Arroyo years. That so many badmouthed military men took part in disparate attempts to oust then President Arroyo is proof positive of the military's unhappiness with her administration, despite her unwilling over governmente agenda after another with retired generals. These disgruntled officers and enlisted men were neither rogues nor ne'er-do-wells. On the contrary, they were some of the AFP's best and brightest.

But while we welcome this amnesty grant to our military men, President Aquino's bold move has also cast an unbidding light on the curious case of the Morong 43, all of whom remain in captivity, despite various calls for their release.

The so-called Morong 43 are the health workers arrested earlier this year in Morong, Rizal by the military allegedly for being leaders of the communist New People's Army. Non-government organizations claim that the 43 were merely participating in a training seminar on health care and service, and not on bomb-making as the military insists.

The bizarre thing about the Morong 43—among whose number included two pregnant women—is all the strong moves that have happened since then. The 43 detainees were kept at Camp Capinpin in Tanay and virtually denied access to everything—from legal counsel to their own families. Attempts at securing a writ of habeas corpus and the Supreme Court's intervention have failed to free the Morong 43, including 26-year-old Jedilyn Olivar who was nevertheless placed under hospital arrest after giving birth.

It is fairly obvious that the Morong 43 qualify as political prisoners. And they were on much kept arbitrarily away from their loved ones and under constant watch, lending credence to public suspicions and allegations that they had been tortured.

Discussions on the detained soldiers and the captive health workers have become inextricably merged. The trip, transparent way the various marionette' cases have gone on stands in clear contrast to the orbicdeas, shady manner in which the Morong 43's cases have been handled. While Trillanes and company have received considerable media coverage, the Morong 43 are as much as possible hidden away from the eyes of the public, almost as if the government is afraid of them, handling them away through paperwork and bureaucracy.

That President Aquino is nothing like his predecessor is clear with the ghostandy surprising move to grant the captive soldiers' amnesty. However, now more than ever, the urgency of freeing the Morong 43 becomes all the more evident. But even as the obviously detained rebellious soldiers are about to emerge from restriction and return to their abbreviated lives, there is not the least sign that the Morong 43 health workers will soon see the light of day and, finally be set free.

But this is as clear: A state, fair government cannot with one hand free over 300 of those who would destroy it and, with another hand, continue to shackle and hide over 40 of those who would heal its people. It is time for the Aquino administration to prove that point. The time has come to free the Morong 43.

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Judicial courtesy

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

TWO SUMMONSES orders by the Supreme Court, temporarily restraining co-equal branches of government from proceeding with their actions until a judgment on pending cases challenging those has been issued, have once more raised the specter of a constitutional crisis.

In the first, the high court stopped the House of Representatives from further acting on impeachment charges filed against the Ombudsman. In the other, the justices ordered President Aquino to restore the head of the Commission on Muslim Filipino Affairs, Bai Dimna Di-angkra Lawan, to her position, from which she had been removed on the ground that she was a "midnight appointee," while her petition is being heard. Both the Presidency and the legislature have protested these orders, calling them unwarranted judicial disturbance.

Not being a lawyer or a constitutionalist, I must begin by explaining where I'm coming from in my reaction to them. So it is understood, I'm interested in the analysis of social processes—like law and politics—and when they tell us about the larger social realities we face as a result of the kind of society we are becoming. These problems are not unique to us. They involve sets of contests in the course of their transition to a differentiated institutional order.

My ideas talk of the rule of law as though the law has its origins outside of society, and therefore stands above it as an independent source of authority. Social science has come a long way from this mystical and superstitic interpretation of law. It sees law instead as a product of society itself—specifically of its politics—that acquires, in the course of its evolution, a kind of autonomy appropriate to the growing complexity of society. "Law is frozen politics," says the legal scholar Roberto Unger. But this sharp formulation does not take into account the other side of the relationship, i.e., how law influences politics.

Law is supposed to regulate politics. It must do so in order to protect the long-term interest of a stable political order, therefore acting more or less as the brakes in the locomotive assigned on a train's constitution. A constitution is inoperative from the people to whose name it is written. The constitution "creates" the people for whom it speaks, in the process, it may appear to acquire a life of its own.

We know that the constitution is not a self-implementing document. Most of its provisions have to be enacted by the legislature into specific laws. Its fundamental vision has to be carried out by the executive branch. And the unavoidable gulf between the constitutional text's noble ideals and existing reconciling has to be bridged by the Supreme Court.

This unity and separation of the powers of government is a precarious one. The entity is held together by the constitution. But, paradoxically, the constitution can do this only to the extent that it can restrain the aspirations of these powers—meaning, that it equips each of the branches enough powers to resist the influence of the others on their affairs. The viability of this arrangement is tested at almost every point.

Supreme Court justices are appointed by the president. But a high court that becomes no more than a tool of politics is useless.

By the same token, though the Presidency and Congress draw their authority from their election by the people, they can misuse their powers only within the terms of the constitution. But an executive and a legislature that allow their initiatives to be routinely blocked by a court that is insensitive to the context in which its decisions operate face problems.

"The constitution is delegated neither to politics nor law exclusively but simultaneously within and outside each of the two systems," writes Andrew Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos, a professor of law at the University of Westminster. This is an interesting reminder to the common view that assigns to the Supreme Court the exclusive right to interpret the intentions of the constitution, it reminds us of the need for judicial caution when passing judgment on the actions of political bodies, and equally of the need for a habit of politics that is tempered by respect for the legal framework in which political prerogatives are exercised. In short, courtesy on both sides of the functional divide.

"Courtesy," curiously, is a word that often appears in the statements of the high court itself. I hope that the current tussles in our economy mainly as something to which it is entitled, rather than as something it must also, as often, respond to the political branches. On Oct. 11, the day the Court issued a status quo ante order (SQO) against the Commission on Elections, court spokesman Midas Marquez said that the order covers only the case of Lucman, and not all the pending "midnight appointment" cases. "However," he added, "the exercise of judicial restraint may go a long way." That unfortunate ad libbing aside, as the Court's spokesman rightly stressed it, "that Malacañang could use Lucman's petition in dealing with four other midnight appointees who submitted their respective motions to the Supreme Court."

In the wake of President Aquino's strong reaction to the high court's order, we hear a rollercoaty calibrated message from the high court. On Oct. 13, Marquez said, "The fact that the SQO order covers only the Lucman petition shows that it is a class of its own and it cannot be invoked as a blanket remedy for all the so-called midnight appointees." Our wishes be had and this from the start, instead of trailing off with a vague reference to judicial courtesy, I doubt if Malacañang would have been provoked to criticize the Supreme Court so directly.

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Pray on

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a taxi dog which was a mute genius. When asked, "one times one?" it would reply, "arf!" When asked "two times two?" it would say, "arf, arf, arf, arf!" and so on. One night, a drunk passed by its cage and asked the dog: "What is one million times one million?" To which the story, the dog is leafing up is now, non-stop, and is already very weak, still answering the question.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Luke 18:1-8), Jesus reminds us that we be persistent in our prayers. He must not stop praying. He must keep on believing that our prayers are heard, and that nothing is impossible with God. In other words, our prayers must be accompanied with obedience, trust, lively faith and gratitude.

* * *

Aside from the hard work of the resurrect, I am sure that it was the persistent prayers of the sisters and their families, the whole nation of Chile and that of the whole world, that helped the 33 miners to be freed after being trapped in a mine tunnel for 69 days. Yes, prayer works, but it must be tried, and it must not be stopped, no matter what.

* * *

Persistence in prayer must not stop though, even after what is being asked for shall have been granted. This is the problem with some people: They stop praying once they receive their blessings. Please remember that aside from our petitions and intercessions, we need be persistent in our praise and thanksgiving.

* * *

From a distance, I and some 38 pilgrims with me on a Marian pilgrimage have been praying that the Lord spare our country both a super typhoon that is threatening to visit us these next few days. We do not need more calamities and more sufferings! Together with our human wills are now about to harvest, or are now harvesting their rice, let us discern the heavens with our prayers that we may be spared from more storms and typhoons.

* * *

It is always an inspiring sight to see a person with head bowed, and knee bent in prayer. In whatever way or in whatever position, a person in prayer is a person at peace. The value of prayer is not just the belief that our petitions will be granted, but the assurance that we are not alone, that there is someone listening, and that there is some hope and direction amid our loneliness and confusion. Pray. Pray. Pray.

* * *

When was the last time you really prayed, and prayed really? There are times when, try as we might, we come to a standstill, and we hit rock bottom. At such times, pray. Pray as you pray usual, pray ugly, whatever, but pray anyway, and pray on. We need to pray honestly. Just pray real.

* * *

The very first act I do every morning is to kneel down, and count as I wake up. This practice I learned from our formator, Fr. Richard Rubio, SVD, when I entered the minor seminary in 1966. On hended knees, we do not need to say much because when we kneel in humility we know who we are, and we know who God is. When we kneel down, with all our blessings and "achievements," we know that all these came from God, and that they would be gone in a flick of a finger. When we kneel down, with all our brokenness and problems, we know that we can, that there is someone bigger than us who can help us. Do you want to know who you really are, and what the score really is? Kneel down!

* * *

At the end of the day, kneel down. (If unable to do this, just bow down your head in prayer). Whatever transpired during your day, good or bad, happy or sad, lay them all before God's heart, and surrender everything in prayer. Prayer at the end of the day provides the necessary "closure" to help us get a good night's rest.

* * *

By this: If you cannot sleep, hold your rosary or your rosaries. We need to say much. Just stay forward, then surrender everything and we will be trying to resolve all your problems and concerns in your hand. And yes, instead of counting sheep, count your blessings.

* * *

Why is prayer important? A real message I received says: "Prayer quiets our hearts, clears our vision, activates our faith and makes things happen." If prayer seems not important to you yet, at this point in time, maybe that is the reason why your heart is not quiet, your vision is not clear, your faith is not active and things are not really happening to your life.

* * *

Oct. 15 was St. Teresa of Avila's feast day. Let us reflect on her words: "Let nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you. All things are passing. God never changes. Who possesses God wants nothing. God alone satisfies."

* * *

Our persistent prayers, my dear bodies sometimes we do Jesus seems to come call John 14: when you have sinned, call Psalm 51; when you are in danger, call Psalm 91; when you grow bitter, call 1 Cor. 13. Yes, whatever you are, whatever you think you are, whatever you have been, whatever you are going through, remember that God is there for you, so prayer.

* * *

Sunday Mass(ada invites you to a Lay Ecumenical, 28:30, at the Arnold Janssen Hall, Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City. 9 a.m. until 12 noon. The topic is "How to Prevent Mummy Loss." The speaker will be Dr. Donna Santos, fellow of St. Luke's Medical Center. For inquiries call: 373-2262; 998-2546; 0917-6417840.

* * *

A memorial with the Lord:

Lord, help me to pray, pray on, pray real and to be persistent in prayer. Amen.

Back to manual; a pleasant dialogue

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Pangalangan

THE SABANGAY (village) polls on Monday, Oct. 29 (declared a non-working national holiday) will be conducted manually. No PCOS machines. No pre-printed ballots. No ultra violet security marks. No Source Code. No Further Talks. No compact flash (CF) cards. No first-hour queues. No random manual audits. No automated glitches and hitches. Just plain, old-fashioned manual election.

Logistical nightmare. Originally, I was hoping to use an automated barangay election as the 2016 election dry run. But the Comelec president broke my heart when he said that the preparations for 2016 would be compressed. I thought then that was the right occasion to perfect the automated system so that some the 2013 senatorial and local polls, our people would be more confident in using the new system. But upon further reflection, I now think that the automated polls have been politicized.

First, an automated barangay election would be a terrible logistical nightmare. There are more than 42,000 barangay all over the country. Each of them will devour one barangay chairman (or punong barangay), seven barangay kagawad, one Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) chairman and seven SK kagawad, or a total of 16 officials per village. Hence, about 672,000 (42,000 x 16) barangay and SK officials will be elected. At an average of two candidates per position, there would be 1,344,000 candidates!

To automate the elections, the Comelec must print 40,000+ different kinds of ballots, which must be delivered to 42,000 different barangay. Note that each barangay would have a different set of candidates. This means also there would be 42,000 different celebrations for the 15 weeks.

Since the ballots can be printed by its officers, the list of candidates will have to be finalized two months before and the certificates of candidacy filed three months before election. Further, once the certificates of candidacy are filed, the candidates would have to immediately have to prepare for a long and expensive campaign.

Second, Congress appropriated only P3 billion for the next. This is not enough to finance an automated election considering the need to buy or lease PCOS machines, print special ballots and perform all of these on time for the 42,000 barangay. Note that, unlike the use of PCOS, the last automated polls cost a hefty P7.2 billion.

No deferment. For a while, the barangay polls were in jeopardy of being deferred. Several lawmakers who represent the majority in Congress met with President Aquino. They were telling him their plan to postpone the village vote to coincide with the 2013 senatorial and local elections. Reasoning that there was no urgency to hold the polls now, they added that their proposed would save billions for our cash-strapped nation.

But the President refused to go along, saying that all elective officials must undergo periodic scrutiny by our people. Budget Secretary Butch Abad explained that the lawmakers risked a presidential veto if they pursued on their plan. Comelec Chair Jose A. R. Melo, also present, asserted to the unpredictability of adding 16 new barangay slots to the already long ballot and list for the 2013 electoral exercise.

I remember there was a similar chance for a deferment of the barangay polls scheduled on Oct. 12, 1997. But the then Comelec Chair Teofisto Guingona (April 8, 1997) unanimously resolved it as a "subtle but nonetheless self-serving proposition to lengthen government officers' mandates from the governed. In a democracy, elected leaders are legally and morally bound to resign only by abiding the voluntary consent of the electorate."

Pleasant and friendly dialogue. SSS Chairman Johnny Ramos and his dreaming wife Milo hosted a private, intimate dinner at their Valle Verde home on Oct 2. In attendance, aside from Gen and me, were some power personalities, including Finance Secretary Cesar (and Cory) Purisima, Budget Secretary Butch (and Bay, Diwa) Abad, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, PCOS Chairman Andy (and Trudie) Kintanar, and former Solicitor General Sonny (and Charito) Cruz. Mightily present with his decade-long experience as executive, justice and labor secretary plus an other decade-long Senate service was Sen. Frank Drilon (and Jovy) of Iloilo fame.

They picked my mind on the many controversies facing the P-Noy regime, like the Hong Kong hostage crisis, the crucial cases pending in the Supreme Court (impeachment of the Ombudsman, constitutionalities of the Truth Commission, creation of the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity and eight appointments), the public private partnership program, the reproductive health bills, etc.

On the last item, I opined that—as I wrote in the space on the next day, Oct. 3—the best option now is the RH bill favored by Senate President Drilon, which is a compromise between the opposing sides. I thought that the issue could still be resolved peacefully. I am happy that there was unanimity in voicing down the semi-debate and in extolling a gentle settlement. But I am even happier that a few days ago, at "dinnamit" and "bindasan" dialogue, I was told by Senate President Drilon and the leaders of the LDCE will on agreement to continue discussions.

As a footnote, may I add that I chatted with the papal nuncio, Archbishop Edmond Joseph Farhat, during the Spanish Ambassador's reception last Oct. 12. While he was aware of the views of the various sans, was careful not to comment on purely internal affairs of the Philippines, the personal nuncio—in his other capacity as the liaison of the Pope with the Filipino Catholics—assured the lay leaders engaging issues on the sanctity of life.

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Comments are welcome at: shellpan@gmail.com; lsc@kcrmail.com

The Montalvan morality

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

ON OCT. 11, 2010, Antonio C. Montalvan II, whose column appears in this paper, denounced performer Cesare Caldiran's recent and controversial dramatic at the Manila Cathedral. Caldiran interrupted a Holy Mass to throw down his panties before the friars, an act that should rightly offend anyone of any religion, whoever the deity, whatever the prayer.

Caldiran may have paid for his jail time, but it is Montalvan's sensibilities that have been offended. In his column that firm ly establishes precisely why an idealized defiance of the Catholic Church like Caldiran's is largely celebrated by the public.

In his column, Montalvan stands firm against contraception. If he is to be believed, the future of the Philippines will be a thing of terror with government support of artificial contraception. In the world he predicts, with the exercise of God from his rightful place, innocents will be raped, morality will be lost, and the same murdering mind of hypocrites sitting in power will reduce the country to a nation of aging citizens, no shipping, stalls empty of the young and the hospitals in workforce shortage in the assembly lines, and money in which pipes away the lies and half-truths spoken by the disciples of death.

He began with a firmness repeat, quoting the dangers of an aging Chinese population, and how "Experts worry that Beijing is unprepared for the three speed at which China will age."

Surely, he says, "very surely" this will be the fate of the Philippine nation "some years from now," a country "unsuccessful for controlling population gone hopelessly geriatric."

What Montalvan fails to include is the fact that China imposed a one-child policy taking decisions making away from families and implementing sanctions against those who failed to fall in line. The same article conspicuous forced abortions and sterilizations and punitive enforcement, and families who have lost employment as punishment for second children.

This is a far cry from providing condoms and birth control pills in health care centers. There is nothing to stop one mother from giving birth to an entire basketball team if she decides so. This is the steal difference Manila has with Beijing—choice. There are no forced abortions or sterilizations, there are no abortions at all. China's population is aging because its people are not allowed to have more children. The Philippine population is ballooning because people are not allowed the means to limit their children. What the bill provides is the means to rationally decide on childbirth, instead of being besieged by fear or rancor or God in the whims of abusive husbands.

Montalvan's misrepresentation of the issue in a national column is a testament to the state of the reproductive health debate—guerilla over rationality. He worries about a shrinking population in a nation that can hardly feed its people, much less, educate, employ and house them like human beings. It is the reason why the separation of Church and state is held to be sacrosanct, because the basis of sound public policy making based on faith. When the faithful move from Cathedral to Congress, they are limited by the same rules as the rest of those who depose in national policy debates—logic, rationality, and an understanding that moral ascendancy is a non-requisite.

In the Montalvan can argue that Gabriela has no right to pull his theses into the temple, but cannot argue that his temple should decide the rules of the national theater. Religious morality has no place in policy debate, only because policies concerning multiple religious sensibilities are different, because faiths are different.

"No pro-life bill ever deserves advocate," says Montalvan, "the Church has the responsibility to safeguard the tenets of the faith, which politicians should not leave at the doorstep of their houses when they go to Congress or Malacañang."

It is an odd notion that Montalvan advocates, for true that politicians enter their houses of worship, but it is also true that politicians enter their houses of worship. The difference is that they are not permitted to use those houses and sacralities to discriminate against those who do not share the same biases and sensibilities. They are public servants, charged with the protection of individual rights. To subsidize the purchase of a condom for an impoverished couple violates no one, but to outlaw it, because of the tenets of the faith is a single religious entity, certainly violates the rights of those whose health and standards of living are battered by a choice they make.

"The Church as a dominion of faith is not limited to territorial boundaries," he says. "Faith is a sea without shores. The bedroom is part of the Church, which the Inquisitio Instauro denied, however his dalliances that brought forth the tragic Maria Clara."

All of this is right and true for Montalvan. If he prefers to have a choir of angels and God Almighty singing hallelujah while he has sex, that is his right. He cannot, however, use that argument in the public forum, where the bedroom concerns its sanctity is not part of the Church. It is not respect of government unless a man begins to use his wife as a punishing bag, which is why there are men in a moral sixth a allowance to ban sexual as a tool and his wife playing missionary while making Baby Jesus. A lack of Catholic morality is not going to make a Buddhist begin raping his mother, or an atheist his sister. The woman, in contraception, is not a body to be meaningfully on devoted behavior. The law imposes it, society acknowledges it.

And yet, in the morality of Montalvan, anyone who supports artificial contraception is against life, forgetting that the Church itself supports natural contraception and not because it is against life. It is because it is against sin. After all, that was how to go death, that man supports murder, that woman is against life. There is no debate when everything is reduced to name-calling and every opponent a supporter of murder, a title that should be left alone to the mad and sexless who deserve it. To outlaw advocates like Ricky Carandang or Edge Devaras or Beth Angeles is the level of thing God, Jesus Pilipinas is not only laughable, it is standing to the success of the word.

Montalvan does not care about surveys, he says, or public will. Neither does the Church.

"Never has the Church been daunted by a campaigning such as its 2,000 years of existence, or it could not have survived the long," this 2,000 campaigning made public policy included the Crusades, the Inquisition and the burning of several hundred "witches" in the name of faith.

If Montalvan calls a woman's right over her body murder, it is necessary to prove it, to explain it, beyond the single Christian website he quotes off as truth to his column. He God has not given us the right to love and the interest of the public about whose fetuses he is zoologist concerned.

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A 'dishonorable' mayor

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A FRIEND of mine who recently attended a wedding in Candaba is greatly disturbed at spying among the principal sponsors Mayor Jane Rodriguez of San Mariano (not, who has been accused of raping a 12-year old more than a month ago.

The girl is none under the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Olongapo but why, asks my friend, "is the mayor not arrested yet and is allowed to roam free, flaunting his power and influence?"

Indeed, in the initiation recently the newlyweds, the mayor will be the "honorable Ninong."

My friend was disturbed by the seeming indifference of everyone else in the presence of an accused rapist in their midst. Among the male sponsors, she says, were national officials, a municipal judge and provincial board member. "Everyone was there, all of them, although the Candaba officials have Mayor Rodriguez could have still taken part in the wedding when rape, especially of a minor, is not bailable offense.

What is Local Government in Secretary Jesse Robredo doing about the mayor's case, my friend wonders. At the very least, shouldn't Rodriguez be suspended and prevented from discharging the powers of his office, at least while an investigation and a trial are ongoing? And what is Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman doing to protect and defend the rights of the girl-victim?

Members of a few women's organizations and support groups picketed outside the Olongapo Hall of Justice during the preliminary hearing of the case, but the mayor was nowhere to be found. He was represented in court by his lawyer. Media outfits have also had a hard time getting in touch with Mayor Rodriguez. But if the mayor could stand as a sponsor at a wedding even as the case progresses, does it automatically mean he's covered by some sort of immunity—and impunity

• • •

"CONDITIONAL" Cash Transfers" or CCTs have become a flash point for critics of Secretary Soliman, whose office has been tasked to implement the program albeit at a heightened speed and with a shorter budget.

Ironically the most vociferous of these critics during the budget hearing for the DSWD was Albay Congressman Edcel Lagman, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who initiated the program during her term as president.

Among the points raised against the CCTs is that these will perpetuate a culture of "mendicancy" among the country's poor. Isn't it still all right, when the program was first implemented by the Arroyo administration, I too looked askance at the program, wondering how monthly doles of P500 could make a difference in the lives of poor families. Urban poor residents complained that the amount was only enough to buy two food handouts per day a family of five.

But in a conversation with staffers of the World Bank Philippine office, which first proposed the program, they said that P500 may not amount to much in urban areas, but in rural communities, "this amount may make a difference." I understand the new CCTs will involve an even bigger monthly allotment.

• • •

THE MAIN point of argument in favor of the CCTs is that there are not merely doles or money given outright to the poor. The money is given here is "conditional," since to exchange for receiving the monthly stipends, poor families are expected to adhere to certain conditions, including paying a minimum number of visits to the nearest health center that monitors children, pre- and post-natal care and family planning, ensuring the latest basic services and sending their children to school for at least a minimum number of days. Compliance will be enforced through localities where exist can record their visits and school attendance.

In other words, the country's poorest families will be "paid" so they could avail themselves of socially beneficial services.

Of course, it's a punishment why the government should give people money just so they would avail themselves of public services, but studies have shown that most government initiatives mean to help the poor but stop short of handing doles of income or assisting money or also helping the saving people. Government subsidies for medicines, in the form of senior citizen discounts or deep discounts for essential drugs, have ended up benefiting mainly the middle- to lower-middle classes. The poor, as it daily shows, do not benefit. Perhaps it is the first place they do not have enough income even to avail themselves of discounted medicines.

In a presentation at the Free Philippine Health Outlook Forum earlier this year, Dr. Antonio Ballesteros, director of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, said previous poverty reduction "not just because of low economic growth but also because of the weak response of poverty reduction efforts to promote the impact of growth."

To sharpen the country's response to poverty growth, Ballesteros said the focus should be given on creating productive employment opportunities, expanding the poor's access to productive assets (i.e., electricity, potable water, land) and basic social services (i.e., education, health and family planning services), and managing risks and exposure of the poor to victims of disasters, both natural and man-made.

Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programs are efficient in targeting the poor, Ballesteros noted, based on international experience, "about 80 percent of the benefits go to the 40 percent poorest families on the average. In countries like Mexico, Colombia and Nicaragua, CCT programs have helped reduce poverty through improved health conditions among the poor."

APOLOGIES to Fr. Julius Lupot, former chaplain of the Asian Hospital and Medical Center, whose name I misspelled in a previous column on the proceedings of a panel discussion on "Challenges in the Care of the Terminally Ill," held at Asian Hospital on the occasion of World Hospice and Palliative Day.

The revolt of China's 'Twittering' classes

WORLD VIEW

Ho Feng

BEIJING—LAST week, Liu Xiaobo was awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize for his long and nonviolent struggle for fundamental human rights in China. That seemed to come as a surprise to many in Chinese society, as it was well known to those close to China's long march toward greater freedom.

Set free voices in mainland Chinese media are discussing Liu's Nobel Prize. The government's propaganda department has issued many orders to keep the news from spreading to the general public by imposing strict censorship. In fact, on CCTV's widely viewed 7 p.m. national newscast, not a word on Liu was mentioned on the day he received the prize.

Despite the stern blackout, China's blogosphere and microblogs exploded after Liu was announced as the winner. For example, on Sina's microblog site, bloggers used pictures, expressions and English or traditional Chinese characters to avoid word censorship.

Twitter-style microblogging is extremely popular in China. Twitter.com was officially blocked last year, following the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen crackdown; and the ones in Xinjiang that summer. Even afterwards, its most famous Chinese counterpart, Fanfou.com, was closed down, leaving one million registered users homeless. Nevertheless, although Twitter can be accessed in China only via proxy servers, it still plays a vital role in Chinese Internet life because of its ability to connect different news sources and social networks.

Indeed, Twitter is the only place where people can talk freely about Liu's Nobel prize. A search of the hash tag #Liuxiaobo shows that relevant messages pop up hundreds of times per minute.

Twitter's role in China's democratic awakening should not be overstated. Its users are generally well-educated and well-off urbanites, who have access to the Internet and can afford to purchase smartphones. They increasingly play a role in spurring local news to their communities, but the social revolution brought by microblogging might be even more important than the communication revolution. Indeed, here China's Twitter users lead the world, using it for everything from social resistance, civic navigation and maintaining public opinion, to ensuring black-market organizing without organizations.

In the Guangdong anti-nuclear movement, and mailing protests in prisoners of conscience.

Ever since Internet used Twitter to map information and inform the outside world about the mushrooming protests against the nuclear petrochemical chemical plant in June 2009, there has been much discussion about the role of digital activism in authoritarian countries like China. Does Web 2.0 technology imply an analogous role for "Friends, too" in a Chinese democratic transition one day?

Twitter political activism in China challenges the simplistic assumption that anonymous Internet social media in the hands of activists can lead swiftly to mass mobilization and social change. In actual, these information sharing tools and chats can promote more subtle social progress.

Twitter's political role in China is best viewed as a form of "micro-politics" that mediates between macro-politics and micro-politics. Micro-politics is concerned, whereas micro-politics is daily changes in the micro-political context do not necessarily lead to an adjustment in the macro-structure, particularly in highly controlled political systems like China's. But micro-politics can be significant. They can greatly improve the well-being of society as a whole, bit by bit, by working at the micro level. "Micro-information" and "micro-organizing" can push forward real change.

Why is micro-power so important? In the past, only a few highly coordinated people engaged in political activities. The masses took almost no independent actions. Ordinary people did not understand why the public seemed concerned about their affairs. Today, highly motivated people can lower the threshold for action so that people with low passion join their efforts.

Conversely, the Chinese Twitterspheres has three prominent features. First, as China's rulers strengthen their censorship efforts, Twitter has become highly politicized. Moreover, Twitter brings opinion leaders together around one issue, which, in turn, creates a lot of "new political heroes, ale" and "right-thinking" as well as veterans of civil rights movements and exiled dissidents, by influence on Chinese cyberspace and traditional media in the world of this grouping.

Finally, Twitter can be used as a mobilizing tool in China, because users have seen an explosion of activities indicating that Twitter has become the coordinating platform for many campaigns as saving citizens' rights. With the proliferation of Twitter clones in China (all the major portals now offer microblog services), social movements in China are getting a long-term boost.

So Twitter has become a major tool to promote contentious politics in China. It can effectively link discourse and action, generate widespread campaigns and forge common ground among different actors, public and private. It can also help to build networks of "human" norms. At last, a series of protests and events held since the second half of 2009 suggests a close relationship between Twitter and contentious civil life politics, and thus increases new possibilities for reshaping China's authoritarian regime.

Project Syndicate

Ho Feng is professor of Internet Studies at Beijing University.

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Edna Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Barangay, SK polls for beginners

By Salvador B. Belaro Jr. and Dante A. Francisco

JUST when everyone thinks that the country has moved on with its "hangover" from the May general elections, here comes another—the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections.

While the new election season started without much fanfare, perhaps because it coincided with the onset of the "ber" months, it could be a mind-boggling one.

Historically, the barangay polls are more violent than the national and local elections. Considering that the elections involve the smallest unit of our government, it is not hard to see why candidates need to be so up close and personal as possible in courting voters.

As for the SK, time was too hostile in delivering recent calls for its abolition. Senators who said that kids in the SK belong in school rather than engage in politics were left cringed to the fact that their opposition to the youth organization was for naught as there was no time anymore to amend the Local Government Code which provides for SK's existence.

To help educate the public and voters, here are questions about the forthcoming polls and their answers.

1. When will the country hold barangay and SK elections?

Dec. 23 (Monday)

2. Where will voters cast their votes?

In the polling center in the barangay where the voter is registered. Look for the Permanent Computerized Voters List (PCVL) which is to be posted at the door of the polling center and look for the voters' name and the precinct number where one is assigned to vote.

3. Why are the polls synchronized?

Barangay and SK officials serve the same local government unit (the barangay) and thus, it is more practicable and cheaper to synchronize their elections.

4. Why are the elections manual and not automated?

Voting and counting will be manual because there is no law mandating those to be otherwise. This is unlike the case of the May 10 automated polls where, Republic Act No. 9369, amending RA 8436, expressly authorized the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to use an automated election system.

5. What is a barangay?

A barangay is the basic political unit of government. It serves as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, programs and services in the community, and as a forum wherein the collective views of the people may be expressed, crystallized and considered, and where disputes may be amicably settled.

It is usually headed by a barangay hall where the aforementioned functions are rendered, including the issuance of permits and orders.

6. What is the Sangguniang Kabataan?

Section 423 of the Local Government Code of 1991 calls for the creation of a Sangguniang Kabataan in every barangay to be composed of a chair and seven members. The chair appoints a secretary and a treasurer from the members.

It is different from the Katipunan ng Kabataan which shall be composed of all citizens of the Philippines residing in a barangay for at least 6 months, who are 15 but not more than 18 years of age, and who are duly registered in the list of the barangay Katipunan or in the official barangay list in the custody of the barangay secretary.

The Katipunan ng Kabataan is the youth constituency in a barangay while the Sangguniang Kabataan is its governing body.

7. What are the powers of the pairong barangay (barangay chair)?

The pairong barangay is the chief executive of the barangay government. He is mandated by law (Sec. 389, RA 7160), among others, to: (1) Enforce all applicable laws and ordinances; (2) Negotiate, enter into, and sign contracts for and in behalf of the barangay; (3) Maintain public order in the barangay; (4) Administer voting places (election officers' duties); (5) Enforce laws and regulations relating to pollution control and environmental protection; (6) Administer the operation of the katarungang pambarangay; (7) Call and preside over meetings of the Sangguniang Barangay in the delivery of basic services.

8. What are the powers of the SK chair?

The SK chair shall, among others: (1) Call and preside over all meetings of the Sangguniang Kabataan and the SK; (2) Implement policies, programs and projects for the youth; and (3) Exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the SK.

9. Who are qualified to run in the barangay and SK polls?

Candidates for joining barangay and sangguniang barangay (council members) must be: (1) Filipino citizens; (2) At least 15 years old but less than 18 on Election Day; (3) Able to read and write Filipino, English or the local dialect; (4) Qualified members of the Katipunan ng Kabataan of the barangay where they intend to run for office and residents thereof at least one year immediately preceding the election; and (5) Have not been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude.

10. Who are qualified to vote?

Only those who are registered for the election in a particular barangay can vote for the elections. In the same manner, only those registered can vote for the SK election in that barangay.

Registered voters for the barangay elections are at least 18 years old, residents of the Philippines for at least one year and for at least six months immediately preceding the election in the barangay where he proposes to vote, and duly registered as a voter in accordance with law.

Registered voters for the SK polls have the same qualifications except that they should be at least 15 years old on the date of the elections and not more than 18.

Disabled and illiterate voters can vote provided they are registered as such and as voters in the precincts where they will be voting.

11. When is the campaign period?

The campaign period is from Oct. 14 to Oct. 23.

12. Why are political parties barred from the polls?

The prohibition stems from the legal mandate to make the barangay and SK elections "nonpartisan."

Nonpartisanship refers only to nonparticipation of duly accredited political parties. It does not prohibit anybody from exercising his or her freedom of expression to either promote the election or defeat of a particular candidate or candidates. What is prohibited is simply the partisan nature of any political party.

13. Are there spending limits for candidates?

Yes. Every candidate's spending limit is ₱3 for every registered voter (aggregate amount) in the barangay where he seeks to be elected.

14. What is the voting time?

The casting of votes shall start at 7 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

15. Who will conduct the voting and counting of votes?

The board of election tellers (BET), composed of a chair and two members (all of whom should be preferably public schoolteachers) are tasked, among others, with conducting the voting and counting of votes.

16. How do we vote?

• Get a ballot from the BET chair.

• Upon receipt of the ballot, sign beside your name on the voters' list. The chairperson of the BET will initial (EDCVL).

• Proceed to the voting area and enter on the ballot the names of your chosen candidates, using a ballot secrecy folder.

• After voting, fold the ballot and return it to the BET chair.

• Place a thumb mark on the ballot coupon and thereafter, give the ballot to the BET chair.

• Indelible inking: Dip the right thumb mark of the voter in indelible ink on your right forefinger.

17. How will the votes be counted?

The BET shall publicly count the votes in the polling place.

They shall unfold the ballots and hold up each piece of ballot for all to see, which shall be held together with a rubber band. The chair shall take the ballots for the first position and announce the name of the candidates voted for.

The poll clerk and third member shall record each vote on election returns and tally sheet as the name of the candidate voted for is read. Each vote is considered as one vote. A vote shall be recorded by a vertical line, except every fifth vote for the same candidate, which shall be recorded by a diagonal line crossing the previous four vertical lines.

The same procedure shall be followed in the remaining piles of ballots.

After all the ballots are read, the BET shall record in words and figures the total votes obtained by each candidate both on the election returns and on the tally board. The counted ballots shall be placed in an envelope provided for the purpose, which shall be sealed, signed and deposited in the compartment for valid ballots.

18. What is the Board of Election Canvassers?

There shall be one barangay board of election canvassers (BBEC) in each barangay to canvass the election returns for both the barangay and SK elections and thereafter proclaim the winning candidates.

The BBEC is composed of a chair, two chair and member-secretary. The chair shall be chosen from among the differ ent chairs of the BETs in the barangay.

In barangays with only one BET, it shall convene itself into a BBEC.

19. How is canvassing and proclamation done by the BBEC?

Canvassing starts with the member-secretary of the BBEC receiving the envelope containing election returns (ERs).

Thereafter, the chair of the BBEC opens the envelope and retrieves the ERs. The BBEC shall then proceed to canvassing by reading the votes of the candidates on the ERs and entering them in the canvass of votes.

Immediately after an ER is canvassed, the chair shall write on the upper right-hand corner the word "canvassed" and affix below it his signature and the date of the canvass and after completing the statement of votes, the BBEC shall prepare the certificate of canvass and proclaim the winning candidates.

20. What is required of candidates and voters so that the Comelec can successfully hold the elections?

Vigilance, cooperation and support.

Ideally, each voter should also be a watcher.

(Lawyers Salvador Belaro Jr. and Dante Francisco are the authors of the election comic book SITTSEE! 2010/1969 as Pinoy Bodyguard, which is intended for candidates, watchers and voters. The column orders, please call (0917)5653718.) They are the founders of the Voters' Education Institute. Belaro is a graduate of UP '69, cum laude, CUM and Cornell University (Master of Laws). Francisco is a former editor of the SEAU Law Journal, governor of the ALUMNI Student Council and a practicing attorney.)

BACK TO MANUAL POLLS ON OCT 25 A teacher at the Ramon Magsaysay High School in Espana Boulevard in Manila preparing tally sheets during the 2004 elections. KIM AUDIOS

From boats to barangay halls

IN PRECOLONIAL Philippines, a settlement was called a barangay (balangay) which originally meant a boat, referring to a boatload of related people and their dependents. The term also referred to a political community ruled by a datu.

When the Spaniards came, they kept the barangay as the basic structure of government but stripped the datu or rajah of his powers. Instead, power was centralized nationally in the governor-general and locally in the encomendero and later, in the alcalde mayor and the gobernadorcillo.

The datu or rajah was later renamed cabeza de barangay which degenerated from a title of honor to an ordinary employee.

Barrio

After the Americans colonized the Philippines, the barangays became known as barrios. For some time, the latter governing barrios were found in the Revised Administrative Code of 1916 and later in the Revised Administrative Code of 1917.

Barrios were granted autonomy by the Barrio Charter, Republic Act No. 2370, and formally reorganized as quasi-municipal corporations by the Revised Barrio Charter, Republic Act No. 3590.

Martial law

During the martial law regime, barrios were renamed barangays, a reversion to their pre-Spanish names by Presidential Decree Nos. 86 and 557.

Pursuant to Batas Pambansa (BP) Blg. 222, the first barangay elections for pairong barangay and six kagawad (council members) of the sangguniang barangay was held on May 17, 1982.

Subsequently, BP Blg. 337, known as the Local Government Code of 1983, also fixed the term of office of local elective officials at six years.

BP Blg. 881, the Omnibus Election Code, reiterated that and scheduled another barangay elections on the second Monday of May 1988. However, the date was reset by Republic Act No. 6653 as the second Monday of November 1988, only to be reset again by RA 6679 to March 28, 1989.

Then came the Local Government Act of 1991, RA 7160, which introduced several changes, including the fixing of the terms of office of barangay officials and members of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) to three years. Thereafter, barangay elections were held on May 9, 1994, May 12, 1997 and July 15, 2002.

Barangay elections used to be separate from the polls for the SK, previously known as Kabataang Barangay. But the Local Government Code and subsequent laws paved the way for synchronization since both barangay and SK officials would be serving the same unit of government anyway and, thus, it would be more cost-efficient to synchronize the elections.

—Salvador B. Belaro Jr.

FACTS AND FIGURES

42,025
Number of barangays

8
Number of election posts in a barangay (council: nine barangay chair and seven council members)

8
Number of election posts in a Sangguniang Kabataan (nine SK chair and seven council members)

50,257,540
Registered voters (18 and above) as of Oct. 8

2,459,520
Registered voters (15 to 17 years old) for SK elections

55
Fatalities in the 2002 barangay elections

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2010 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A16

'Juan' roars to northern Luzon

From page A1

administrator Nathaniel Servando said.

But present models have shown that the typhoon moved higher, likely sparing the metropolis.

Pubico said Metro Manila would experience mostly cloudy skies and scattered rains starting today.

Vinzons and Abuliuan will experience cloudy skies and scattered rain showers until Wednesday.

Servando described Juan as a "strong" typhoon comparable to "Pepeng," which devastated the Ifugao region in 2006.

Science Secretary Mario Montejo said Juan could reach its peak intensity status as it may likely be hit 200 km per hour.

"Yesterday (Friday) it was 130 kph, now it's 140 kph. Tomorrow (Sunday), if it's consistent, it might reach 175. By Monday, we might look at 200 plus kph. This is alarming. The typhoon is really strong," Montejo said.

If Juan reaches 185 kph—a "big possibility" because it has been consistently gaining speed and intensity in the past few days—Signal No. 4 will be raised in Aurora province on its path, Servando said.

Other Signal areas from Signal No. 4, "we advise total suspension of activities everywhere," he said.

The last time Pagasa raised its highest alert was in 2006, he warning.

Hourly updates

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, Juan was 810 kilometers east of Infanta, Quezon. Its wind strength near the center has increased by 20 kph to 140 kph since Pagasa's Friday bulletin, and gustiness has intensified to 170 kph from yesterday's 150 kph. It has also accelerated to 24 kph from Friday's 20 kph.

Pagasa officials said they had been directed by President Aquino to make hourly updates on Juan, the 10th weather disturbance to hit the country this year.

Local governments have been warned to prepare for flash floods, landslides, and strong winds, and fishermen and seagoing vessels to stay inland.

"Tough one" in the eastern areas of Cagayan, Isabela, Aurora, and Quezon will be met. "Tough and dangerous in all types of sea vessels by tomorrow (Sunday)," Pagasa said.

Benito Ramos, chief of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), said it had been coordinating with local executives in Cagayan and Isabela to prepare for the typhoon.

Disaster response teams in those provinces as well as those in the Bicol and the Coast Guard have been put on stand-by, Ramos said.

He told the OCD and Pagasa were also monitoring the major rivers and dams in northern Luzon.

Dr. Nanay Espinueva, Pagasa's hydrometeorology chief, said that Magat Dam in Ifugao had a deficit of 2.73 meters as of 4 p.m. yesterday, and that it would need 120 millimeters of rainfall to reach its normal water level.

The other three major dams in Luzon—Angat, Pantabangan and San Roque—are also suffering a double-digit deficit in water level, Espinueva said.

Zero casualty

With the President's objective of zero casualty in Juan's expected onslaught, Malacañang yesterday called on the public to be prepared and cooperate as the typhoon's movement through the north is studied.

As early as Friday night, Ms. Aquino called for cooperation from all concerned government and private-sector groups.

He said Degosa had raised "advisories for the public to expect exceptionally heavy rainfall in the eastern coast of Isabela-Cagayan."

"Let us all work together to ensure zero casualty for this coming typhoon," the President said in a statement.

"I ask our countrymen in affected areas to cooperate with their barangay, municipal, provincial and national officials in ensuring that orderly and efficient preparations are made," he said.

Abigail Valte, the President's deputy spokesperson, said the public, particularly the residents of northern Luzon, could monitor the typhoon's movements through pagasa.dost.gov.ph, Twitter and hotline 433-GLAS.

"Let us be ready so that we can avoid drownings... Don't panic but be prepared," Valte said over government radio dzRB.

Mr. Aquino said those in the private sector could also do their part in helping the government.

"We are confident that Pagasa and the Department of Science and Technology's civil emergency telecommunications unit will be able to provide timely and accurate information to the public," he said, adding:

"To the motorists, I have instructed the DPWH, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and all relevant authorities to take down billboards in vulnerable areas."

MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino said he had directed enforcement adventurers to take down their billboards and signs, particularly in Marikina and other major flood-prone areas.

As of yesterday, many billboard owners have heeded Tolentino's call.

"If needed, we can deploy men to take down those still up," added his spokesperson, Lawyer Emy Fernandez.

In Manila, police were on heightened alert yesterday and will go on full alert starting at noon today as part of the preparations for the typhoon, on the instruction of Chief Supt. Nicasio Bartolome, the newly-installed director of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Mr. Aquino also said the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council was prepared for preemptive evacuation in affected areas, and that the Department of Social Welfare and Development had prepositioned relief goods.

Power command centers

National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP), the power transmission operator, also activated its command centers today, and operations and maintenance personnel in Luzon and the Visayas had been instructed to take all necessary precautions.

NGCP command centers are assigned to monitor grid conditions, coordinate power restoration and rehabilitation and scheduling works, and document all the activities.

As part of the contingency measures, all scheduled maintenance work on NGCP facilities will be suspended starting today. With reports from Anna Marie Bordadora, Nina G. Ansaldo and Amy E. Remo

TAKE HE BLOWS Pagasa's Nathaniel Servando shows the movement of Typhoon "Juan" on the monitoring center in Quezon City. REUTERS

TAKE IT DOWN Workers fold a tarpaulin of a billboard structure in preparation for what may develop into a super typhoon. AGLIPAY

Isabela, Cagayan, Aurora brace for typhoon

ILAGAN, ISABELA—Residents in Isabela and Cagayan have been told to harvest crops early and dismantle makeshift houses to prepare for typhoon "Juan."

Local government in the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and Cordillera regions have prepared food supplies and funds to sponsor equipment and teams in anticipation of evacuation and other contingencies.

In Isabela, Gov. Faustino Dy III said disaster response teams were on standby and residents of vulnerable communities had been properly warned of floods.

"This is not the first time that a typhoon is expected to hit us, so we are ready as usual," he said.

Officials of the provincial agriculture office said most farmers harvested their crops recently on the dunes region in Isabela's Santiago so as not to be hit.

In the Ilocos, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in the region asked local government officials to advise fishermen not to go out to sea and to still latch those already out fishing to avoid typhoon-related casualties.

Eugene Cabrera, director of the OCD in the Ilocos, said fishermen had always been advised to bring launches or dinghies to typhoon safe-havens.

"We are also asking all the mayors to announce suspension of classes so the fishermen can return to shore," he said.

In the Cordillera, government engineers and policemen have banned motorists from using mountain roads vulnerable to landslides that could result in kilometers-long traffic jams.

The Department of Public Works and Highways has deployed 20 units of payloaders to prune road contours to landslide-prone roads such as kilometers 10 and 38 of Halsema Highway. Reports by Doris Pilar-Gue Vinluan, Yolanda Isnain and Rosalinda Cayabyab, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Dodjie Evans, Inquirer Central Luzon

Pointers on how to weather typhoons

From page A1

● Secure documents and valuables under plastic.

● For better fuel, place boats in a safe area.

● Monitor the news or your local weather station for updates on the storm situation, when it will hit and how strong it will be.

● If Roads or landslides have previously occurred in your area, secure your appliances and other belongings and head to evacuation centers. Also consider if you can on or near heavily-saturated ground, which is very susceptible to mudflows and debris.

● If you think your area is relatively safe, locate the nearest evacuation center and be ready to shut off electricity in case of flood.

● Move to higher ground. Here avoid river banks, streams, rivers and low-area drains to avoid possible flash floods. Be aware that flash floods may occur not once but several times, and you may need to get to safety. Note that flash floods can occur up to 12 hours after heavy rains.

● Check your gadgets to make sure they are clear of leaves and debris. You can opt to have some possessions with someone who is not in a flood-prone area.

● Move vehicles to higher ground. Make sure these have enough fuel and will start quickly in case of emergency evacuation.

● Make sure there are no items outside your house that can be thrown by strong winds and hurt or kill. Board up or cover windows. Secure trees close to your home with ropes so they don't fall and crush your roof. Trim branches that may snap off and injure others.

● Immediately charge all necessary electronic devices like cellular phones, which you will have to use in case of emergencies.

● You should have a 72-hour survival kit stocked with essential supplies, including flashlights, battery-operated radio, extra batteries, water (at least 4 liters per person, ready-to-eat food, canned goods, can opener), first aid supplies and medicines. Also stock up on clothes, including rain ponchos and rubber boots.

● Have a written record of your important papers, especially for infants, elderly or disabled family members and your pets as well.

● If applicable, keep copies of your home or insurance papers inside waterproof plastic bags.

● Prepare your escape routes. Practice what you will do in case of floods, flash floods or landslides. Map out safe routes where you can get from your office to your home. Coordinate with your neighbors.

● Have your phone's battery power fully charged. Have a charging plug to make sure batteries and rough-house down with a small, big, pillowcase or a plastic bag filled with garden soil or a heavy object. Plug water inlet pipes with towels or cloth.

● Arrange to keep contact with your neighbors to make sure everyone is safe and to trust you can avoid. Load items on food supplies when the situation calls for it.

● Be especially alert when driving. If your car is swept into the water and submerged, do not panic. Here calm. Hold your breath, have your way outside, and swim to the surface.

● If you are swept into fast-moving floodwater outside of your car, point your feet downstream. Always go over obstacles, never try to go under. Do not swim floodwaters.

● Watch out for collapsed pavement, mud, fallen rocks and other indications of possible landslides.

● If you are stranded on something above floodwaters, such as a tree or building, stay put and wait for rescue. Call for help if you are in danger.

AFTER THE STORM

● Even if the storm is close, keep listening to weather reports and only return to evacuated buildings if you are told it is safe to do so. Beware of sharp objects and pollution in flood waters.

● If your home was damaged, make sure that it is already safe and stable before you enter.

● Beware of dangerous animals, such as snakes, that may have entered your home.

● Watch out for fire wires or outlet immersed in water.

● Report damaged electrical cables and fallen electric posts to the authorities. Report power outages that have been submerged in floodwaters to authorities.

● Do not turn on the main power switch or attempt to use electrical appliances that have been wet, because there are hazards of electric shock and fire. Allow several days for submersion cords, connectors and other wiring devices to dry completely. Use rubber gloves and wear rubber soled shoes when removing mud and dirt from the main electrical breaker or fuse.

● Avoid using tap water for drinking, cooking and washing until Boodwater is surrounding areas is not safe unless local authorities expressly declared it to be so. If there is no safe water supply for drinking, boil bottled water or disinfected water (by adding five drops of liquid household bleach and let sit for 30 minutes).

● Before entering an area that has been flooded, put on protective clothing (long pants, boots and gloves). Decrease the risk of mosquito or other insect bites by using repellent. Throw away all food items contaminated that had come in contact with floodwaters.

● Stay away from landslide areas until local officials say it is safe to enter. Watch for flooding, which sometimes follows landslides and debris flows.

● Once permitted to enter landslide areas, check your home for foundation and surrounding land for damage. Replant damaged ground as soon as possible to minimize erosion caused by heavy rains. Reports by Jaime Laude

● Do not let wild animals, like rats, come in contact with food or drinking water. Use chlorine for emergency breeding.

Compiled by Alvin Feliciano, Inquirer Research

Sources: Pagasa, ADB-GTZ Asian American Red Cross, AUSAID, Philippine Red Cross

National grid girds for howler

POWER TRANSMISSION service providers and system operator National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) is all set to activate its command center today in preparation for the expected landfall of Typhoon "Juan" in Cagayan and Isabela provinces on Monday afternoon.

In a press statement, the NGCP said its system operations and maintenance personnel in Luzon and the Visayas have been supplied to make all necessary preventions to minimize the impact of the typhoon.

To coordinate contingency measures in all NGCP facilities in the parts of the operations command center in the head office, personnel and tools will be activated 24 hours before landfall.

Monitoring of grid conditions, assessment of damages, replacement over rehabilitation and restoration activities in the transmission will all be done at the command center.

All telecommunication facilities, equipment, tools and vehicles have been secured. Materials and supplies necessary for the repair of possible damages to facilities, including emergency restoration structures (ERS), have been placed in strategic locations. Groups of linemen have also been organized and prepared to be deployed at any emergency.

As part of the contingency measures, all scheduled maintenance works on NGCP facilities will also be suspended starting today.

FLOWERS: Ate's quite apt for Vanity's unspeakable grief.

POPE AND KIDS: Manuel Tinoquito (center, seated) and Laurel children (standing, from left) Marivic (Archie), Pat (A Imperial, Isabel Buenaventura, (seated, from left) Antonio Laurel and Jose Miguel Laurel

Maria Paz: A love story to end all love stories

FIRST LOVE: Paz married Bodjie Laurel at 18. A race car driver, he died at 33 in 1987 when his car spun out of control during the Macao Grand Prix. He was a two-time champion racer.

father with many children, a playboy and a really nice guy. But Mommy was different," says Isabel Laurel-Buencamino.

"She loved us more," Isabel says. "You could tell. He'd be scared every time she got sick. He was always there and was very possessive of her."

Inseparable

Pat and Manny were "in in love they were inseparable," a relative says.

The way it's told, they went to Mass together and then studied together. After work, they played badminton or bridge.

People would think that they were on their first year of marriage because of the cute and loving books they labeled on each other, like valentine says.

Manny's biggest challenge was winning the hearts of Paz's children. "It's difficult. If there are five kids, no one would ever be good enough for them. He had to contend with all of us," Isabel remembers.

The children referred to him as Papa. "He would not spoil you but you know there's someone looking out for you," Isabel says.

Paz organized regular family outings and gatherings featuring board and parlor games.

Isabel recalls how she and her siblings mastered poker, their favorite game, the expensive way. To join the game, the players had to pay tuition of P1,500. Because their school allowances were only P600, they had to earn the extra money through raids.

Over the years, Manny taught them values and discipline with the balance of love and fun.

A bride at 18

Paz was a mere teenager when she fell in love with Dodjie Laurel, a son of President Jose P. Laurel.

Her mother thought she was too young to get serious and sent her to the United States for a year.

The couple's only connection was correspondence in the era of snail mail. It's said that Bodjie's letters were so romantic that despite the lack of physical contact, they received a pull on her.

Upon returning from the United States, Paz, then 18, married Bodjie, by then a lawyer and a race car driver.

Isabel recalls how her father came home with weapons and coloring books and got down on the floor with his children.

He had a soft spot for his daughters.

Every year, Paz went with Dodjie to the Macau Grand Prix where he became a two-time champion.

Paz was not with him in the 1982 race, which he had entered would be his last. In the thick of the race, Bodjie's car spun out of control, crashed into the sea wall and burst into flames.

He was dead at 33.

"One morning my mom heard on radio that my dad had died," recalls Sarah Laurel Imperial. "She ran down all on radio to the house to tell her the servers. She left for Macau to pick up his body. We were all asked to leave our house in San Lorenzo (Village in Makati) and leave the memories behind."

At a single parent, Paz worked diligently to support her children and send them to the best schools.

Isabel was also last to get married at the age of 31. While in the earlier wedding, however, the eldest, received his sisters down the aisle, Manny had the privilege of walking Isabel to the altar.

Family first

Paz doted on her grandchildren, all 10 of them and they speak of nothing but her extraordinary character.

"Our parents would always tell us how our 'Lola' had a hard time, but she was tough," says Christopher Laurel Imperial. "We never experienced her difficulty because she never showed it."

"The family came first," says Nicolas Michael Laurel Urdaneta, a college senior. "She always found time for us. She would host a monthly dinner for us cousins. We would all meet and talk about family life, business."

Christopher, who will pursue his MBA abroad, recalls: "She always talked to us about being ambitious in business. When we were growing up, she always told us, 'Start your own business and get the experience while you're young.'

"We—collectively, the cousins—had small ventures like selling drinks to tournaments. Our 'Lola' Manny would invest the money we made in the stock market."

Adds Nicolas: "She'd say, 'If you go into business, do it for yourself and because you want to do it rather than being there for the money. It's got to be your passion.'"

High schooler Adria Arsenio Buencamino Laurel Buencamino remembers Paz's kindness and how she respected people, rich or poor.

"I learned to treat others fairly and treat everyone the same," he says.

Cherlie Imperial, also a student, says: "Every time she had a problem, [crying] when she got hit on the head, she never gave up."

The story goes that a thief entered the house and went up to Paz's room. "She started screaming when her door swung open. The robber hit her on the head with a vase and she was later taken to the hospital. But she never gave up on life. She still did her best and stayed strong for everybody," Cherlie says.

Last dance

Wednesday, Oct. 13, Paz was practicing a dance number for the whole. She entered high school homecoming of her alma mater Assumption College.

As she was called to the stage, she had her breath and suddenly collapsed, her eyes glazing.

It is believed that a brain attack or a stroke was the cause of death. She was 71.

"Mom found a way to get us together all the time," recalls Paula. "In her eulogy, my son said his grandmother was his biggest fan and his inspiration. She'd say 'Why not do that?' Or she would support us in what we thought. She tried to understand us."

Why do we have to be poor? Kids ask, wish for food ...

From page A1

want a book so that I can read."

In drawings and letters, students and out-of-school youths expressed their deepest wish to get an education, many of them sketching and writing about the kernel of necessities. Price bills in pencil, houses or cowrie, clothes and fruits.

One student, Jeremy Rabanal, wrote: "Why do we have to be poor? Why are we not like other well-off families?"

"We should take action against [poverty]. The collective effort of the government and its people will surely guarantee a poverty-free Philippines," he said.

The students' works were in a halfday-Thai Assembly International Conference in the Department of Education (DepEd) on Friday to mark the observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Lagging

The international rights group wants a commitment and concrete plan of action from governments on how it plans to meet the education targets under the Millennium Development Goals, a set of global ambitions by benchmarks that world leaders have committed to achieve by 2015.

The Philippines is among the nations known to be lagging behind its MDG compliance.

In a roundtable discussion with Education Undersecretary Alberto Muyot, Amnesty section director Aurora Parong said government should include stakeholders in drafting its course of action for MDG compliance and should direct its efforts into getting the poor and marginalized into the school system.

"The first message is to fulfill their international human rights obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the right to education. They should target the most vulnerable— the street children, the displaced, those in evacuation centers, those in the 10 poorest provinces," Parong said.

She said government should adopt targeted measures to address education concerns specific to impoverished regions and sectors. She said these sectors should also be represented in consultations so that government action would correspond to their needs.

Overcoming poverty

Muyot, a former Amnesty international member himself, said he would convey the group's concerns to government. He said measures were under way to ensure that the country makes it to the 2015 MDG deadline.

In a program held on the steps of DepEd's main building, Amnesty International members read out a few of the letters from students and out-of-school youths, all of them expressing the hope that funding for public education would be increased to help them overcome poverty.

A count for concern is the DepEd's anticipated higher budget for next year — P197 billion from this year's P175 billion — that Amnesty fears may not trickle down to the communities that are in most need of education funds.

"Despite bigger resources, Amnesty International is concerned that the neglected translate into universal primary education when the poor are marginalized, do not have access to elementary school buildings, qualified teachers and adequate books and materials needed for effective and quality education," Parong said.

The MDG deadline coincides with Eleventh of the Ten-year Education plan that DepEd has set for the implementation of K-12 (kindergarten plus 12), a key Aquino administration reform that aims to extend basic education by two years to place the country's education system on a par with those of other countries around the world.

Beware of bogus internet job offers. There are many online scams. —Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo

GLOBAL Pinoy

Gilda Monica Feria

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

INSPIRATIONS

What inspiring saying or quote has been a constant guide or motivation in pursuing your goals and dreams?

Here, 20 renowned Filipinos from across the globe share their own inspirational sayings as well as the lessons they have gained in their journeys to success.

The quotes were collected by Western Union® Money Transfer℠ to commemorate the company's 20th anniversary.

We hope to communicate these inspiring messages to hard working Filipinos overseas as they achieve their own goals, said Patricia Rüngen, the company's senior vice president for the Pacific and Indochina.

"It is always a worthwhile endeavor to strive for excellence. There's nothing like the satisfaction you feel knowing you did something to the best of your abilities."

LEA SALONGA is a revered actress and singer. Best known for her breakthrough lead role as Kim in the original stage production Miss Saigon, which won her various awards, including the much coveted Tony. She is the first Asian to play principal parts in highly-acclaimed Broadway musicals.

"If my people who are called by name will humble themselves and pray and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sins, and heal their land.—*II Chronicles 7:14*"

LORNA NICOLAS LEWIS is the chair and chief executive officer of TAC Worldwide Investment Holdings, Inc., a multinational food manufacturing company. She is the first woman to be inducted into the Asian Hall of Fame.

"Wherever we are worldwide, the Filipino is a cut above the rest. We are smart, hardworking and talented. Be proud you are Pinoy!"

RICO BLEDO is the first Filipino broadcast journalist to student for two years globe to International TV news networks—CNBC Business News and BBC World News.

"I am so proud of my heritage. The only time success comes before work is in the dictionary. The only limitations are the ones you put on yourself."

RIVKAH RAIS is a celebrated singer, model, actress, musician and fashion designer to the United Kingdom. She has pursued successful international TV and radio shows, released three hit classical albums, designed her own collection of baby clothes and appeared on the face of many advertising campaigns.

"As we struggle to go forth and reach our goals, we must never forget where we came from. Our roots are what keep us strong."

BIG ASSIA is a rock vocalist, known for being one of the three finalists in the search for the new lead singer of Queen. In the popular TV series Rome: HBO. He has also released a CD and performed on Broadway. He launched the global campaign "United as One" to help raise funds for the victims of Typhoon Ondoy.

"I was redeemed through courting and not by boasting. Thank God I'm Filipino! Humility and goodness is in my veins."

LESLEY MORO is a London-based fashion designer for Harrods—for the Japanese G-Mile label and his own line, MORO London. He has won awards from Emilio Pucci in 2004 and Diesel in 2006, which gave rise to the "Lesley Moro for Diesel" collection.

"My mother always told me to dream big because it doesn't cost anything. Dreams can come true if you work hard for it."

OLIVER VALENTINO is one of the first Filipino fashion designers exported to the United States. He opened his own boutique at Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles in 2008. He has a roster of high-profile, international clients.

"Remember that success is only possible when you say 'No' to self doubt and refuse to accept failure. Be willing to make mistakes—and then learn from them. Embrace and celebrate your uniqueness, and use it as your driving force to achieve your life's goals."

CHARMAINE CLAMOR is the creator of "purrgatory" and a celebrated Filipina designer to the United States. She is the first Filipino

Americano to place two consecutive records in the World Music Top 10. Recently, Charmaine guest-starred on an album of David Byrne and Arthur Slim, along with rap artists such as Cyndi Lauper, Natalie Merchant and Tom Jones.

"Whether it be a need to fill, or a dream to follow, let your will move you forward and your heritage guide you."

ROBIN TUMAS is a notable fashion designer who married his current working for top brands E. Lucid, Ung and Tommy Hilfiger. Tuma, his designs collections for women, men and children for other leading US companies. His own line, TUMAS, is set to be launched globally by 2011.

"Many Professional Artists are a part of almost every movie, game, toy design, comic book and animation production. We have proven time and again we are world class artists. Imagine what we proven professional artists can do for our own country, given the chance."

WILLIE FORONDO is a notable book editor best known for his work in Marvel Comics titles The Punisher, X-Factor and Uncanny X-Men.

"He had like the wolf."

KIMI CAMARA is a successful lawyer and the youngest Filipino graduate to go to Harvard Law School, where he graduated magna cum laude at 19 in 2006.

"If you want to do something you like, don't wait till everything is just right. Things will never be perfect. There will always be challenges, obstacles and less-than-ideal conditions. Get started now. With each step you take, you grow stronger, more skilled, more knowledgeable, more self-confident, and more successful."

JUSTINO HERRERA is the multi-awarded president of Coca Fish-nologies Corp., a company that pioneered the use of seaweed baths as

grassroots area to prevent soil erosion in coconuts.

"It's the babysitter gift; I may be a gift. Many women and men are gifts. I recognize that I am not only for myself, but I am for others."

CHARITO BAES is the founder of the FilipinoWomen's Council, an organization of Filipina migrant workers in Rome. In 2004, she was

conferred The Order of Merit of the Italian Republic for her role in the promotion of the rights of women and migrants.

"When I say I'm going to do something, I do it."

JOE ROJAS was the first woman to run the length of the Philippine archipelago in—four marathons from Northern Luzon City to northern Pagudpud.

Rose Nieto in 2005. In 2009, she and running partner Mae Morales were on a six-country Asian American trek from California to New York, making her the first Filipina to complete the multi-country run.

"A great artist demands perfection. Perfection requires discipline. Discipline requires sacrifice."

RACHELLE GERFORDO is one of the Philippines' premiere sopranos and an international opera singer. She has collaborated with top international musicians and has appeared as soloist with various international orchestras.

"Believe in your dreams—the power lies within you. Believe that you can make it happen because the only limitation is your imagination."

YASMIN BEKHAZI is a PR and marketing professional who has worked and lived in different cities in the world—Dubai, Barcelona, Cannes, Saigon, Madrid, Frankfurt, Atlantic Tokyo and Budapest. In 2009, she was named the Star Ketring and PR Person of the Year of the Hotelier Middle East Magazine Awards.

"The skills and talents of the overseas Filipino workforce mark the diversity of our generation. Challenges overseas inspire us to learn from our failures, to overcome pain by turning it into wisdom, and to consider a question loop of opportunities. My vision as a leader, my determination as an individual and compassion as a proud Filipino are my greatest strengths as I continue this journey."

MAY JANE ALFERO ALBERTO is a distinguished chemical engineer and the chief executive officer of Geoscience Testing Laboratory in Dubai, UAE. In 2008, she was the first Filipina to win the Emirates Women Award.

"Whatever you are, whatever you do, remember... you are a Filipino. Stand tall, do your best, make your country proud."

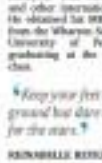
PEACH BUENCAMINO is an architect in the south eastern United States. Her work has won her successful gained recognition and awards from the building and design industry.

"Work towards service and contribution, and let achievements and accomplishments simply follow. Never forget who you truly work for: your family and loved ones."

VICTOR FRANCO ORLANDO is an accountant based in New York, specializing in real estate and insurance. Armed degree, he has published in prestigious journals have been cited by the World Bank, The Wall Street Journal and other international media. He obtained his MBA and PhD from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, graduating at the top of his class.

"Keep your feet on the ground but dare to reach for the stars."

RENABELLE REYES is currently a PhD candidate in Astrophysics at Princeton University. She was recognized by the "Outstanding Young Filipino" award by the Philippine Jaycees. She received the "Outstanding Achievement Award" at the annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society in 2008 for her work in the discovery and analysis of the largest collection of hidden "supermassive" black holes.



It's Christmas in October in Laguna

By Marisar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—The Laguna plant industry has proven its resilience in the face of typhoons and financial crises, as thousands of flowers continued to bloom in this town.

To showcase the beauty of Laguna's plants, different varieties of orchids, ornamental foliage, fruit-bearing trees, palms and grass (including ones put up as a garden show at Los Baños (UPLB) campus.

With the live foliage arranged around colorful Christmas decors, the garden show fittingly started the theme "Christmas in October," giving a whiff of the holiday season inside the university. The 30-day garden show ends today.

The garden show is a biennial activity of the Los Baños Horticultury Society (LBHS) Inc., a group of plant enthusiasts with 70 members from this town and the cities of Bay, Calamba and San Pablo, as well as from Quezon and Metro Manila.

LBHS also featured ornamental plants like Dracaena fragrans, Codiaeum variegatum and Philodendron in the garden show.

"Los Baños is synonymous to plants," LBHS chair Marisar Cinipan said, boasting about the town's cool climate and the university's plant center that provides the restaurant lanes, boy to plant growers.

"This town is home to life-blooming, an attractive solution known to have over 2,000 species of plants.

Cinipan said the plant industry, particularly the commercially-grown, depends on the condition that "business or plants are considered" is necessary to landscaping of commercial and residential communities.

"If construction booms, there is a boom in the plant business too," Cinipan said.

She said the plant industry has yet to fully recover from the effects of the two major global financial crises that also hit the Philippines, first the Asian crisis in 1997 to 1998 and the global meltdown in 2008.

Slight recovery

"There was a slight recovery in 2000 to 2005, but then here came another (crisis)," Cinipan said, adding there remains no supply from demand for plants.

THE NATIVITY: A new set, amidst the green foliage and Christmas lanterns is one of the attractions at the 30-day garden show of the Los Baños Horticulture Society in UPLB.

Plant growers here also suffered the brunt left by Typhoons "Ondoy," "Pepeng," and "Santi" last year, causing a 40-percent drop in revenues for the plant growers.

Cinipan said several green houses and plant shops were ruined during the strong typhoons.

Thus she said a garden show would hopefully give a lift to the horticulture industry. The garden show was also a chance to introduce amateur landscapers from Laguna.

Rommel is the late "Tito, LBHS was a pioneer in the plant industry and is among the few that has remained active in the country's market.

Of course, being "plant lovers" bound the group together, Cinipan said.

"You have to share the interest and love for plants. Financial capability is just secondary," she said.

She said the know of some people who started with large plant nurseries and big operations but which failed only for a few years.

"If your interest is just to earn, you won't be successful," she added.

The group's next garden show will be in April 2011, to coincide with the town fiesta, featuring the festivals in different Laguna towns as its theme.

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House Mindanao bloc: Noy's peace adviser must quit

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE GOVERNMENT'S peace effort hit a stalemate in Congress after a bloc of Mindanao legislators succeeded in forcing the passage of a resolution on Friday calling for the resignation of Secretary Jesus Dureza, chairman of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP).

The unprecedented resolution, which almost threatened to hold up passage of the national budget, was championed by a complaint against Datu Unsay mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. and his brother Anwar Ampatuan, both members of the clan blamed for the Maguindanao massacre.

In a letter read by Iloilo Rep. Exequiel Javier to the chamber last Friday, the young Ampatuan said that she was "insulted" by Dureza when, during a break at the budget debate last Wednesday, she approached the Opapp head to ask about the peace process.

Ampatuan said Dureza told her to "read up on her (Datu's) background," and "to read her (Datu's) books."

Hostile tone

"When I informed her that I was speaking on behalf of Muslim legislators, who had questioned her programs and policies and the lack of importance given to ARMM constituents, she responded by saying that the problem with Muslim legislators is that we are mostly new, and we do not understand how it works," Ampatuan said in her letter addressed to Majority Leader Rolex Suplico.

"What would you say?" Secretary Dureza was defensive, bordering on hostile. At one point, she uttered her name," said Ampatuan.

The exchange between the two women occurred after Ampatuan entered the suspension of the adoption of the Opapp budget, reserving the right to interpellate further. The Opapp budget is under the 20 first of the President's proposed budget of P4.1 trillion.

After Ampatuan's letter was read, lawmakers took to the floor to denounce Dureza "high-handed manner" toward the congressperson, saying it was an affront on the integrity of the House itself since the chamber was fulfilling its constitutional duty to examine the proposed budget.

Davao del Sur Rep. Marc Douglas Cagas then moved for the reduction of the Opapp's budget to P1.

"Colleagues, let us not allow such arrogance to happen in our House, not in our House. Tun (Dureza) came here to Congress to ask for the approval of your agency's P220 million budget and yet you cannot stand to be questioned," Cagas said.

Seeing then sponsored the resolution asking for Dureza's resignation. The resolution "vehemently objected to such insolent manner of a colleagues who had no other intention but to contribute to the betterment of the peace process."

Delay in budget debates

The hubbub delayed the budget debates. During an hour-long session break, attempts by Dalen and other House allies to appease Ampatuan repeatedly failed even after the sponsor of the Opapp budget, Iloilo Rep. Niña Abaya, rewarded Javier's spokesman to Ampatuan on the floor.

With the sleepless House members jolted out of a muted budget zone, the majority gave in at 3 a.m. and voted to pass the Leong resolution.

According to Majority Leader Rodolfo Gonzalez II, it was a choice between the passage of the national budget and an affair spoof the President.

Peace panel budget: P1

"They (Ampatuans) have already left, dighted. Basically as they are concerned, it may be rather. If it becomes a choice between any secretary and the budget, we will always save the budget," he said.

He said President Aquino will be furnished with a copy of the Leong resolution.

Gonzalez said the Cagas resolution to reduce the Opapp budget to P1 will be taken up during the review of individual and committee amendments on Tuesday.

After the budget's passage, Javier was seen in a huddle outside the session hall with Assistant Majority Secretary Rudy Salaman and Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, frantically trying to call the President at 5 a.m. to deliver the bad news.

Surrounded by a handful of reporters, Dalen said she didn't know if she should resign.

"I don't know ... depends on the President. We serve at (his) pleasure," she said.

No confirmation

She denied insulting Dureza, showing reporters the congressperson's supposed text to her in which Ampatuan thanked her, even regarding her intention to buy Javier "books."

According to a House member, if Dalen does not resign as it is the President refuses to act, Dalen would most likely not pass confirmation by the congressional Commission on Appointments.

House OKs budget

From page A1

blueprint" of his young administration. He said it mirrored his commitment to lift the nation from poverty through honest and efficient governance.

"As a reform budget, the national budget for 2011 reflects a choice. It may not be to easy one but we believe it is the right—maybe, the only—choice if we are to usher into a new era," he said.

Aquino's budget is centered on growth and, yes, opportunity," he said in his message.

Belmonte described the budget bill as "pivotal in fulfilling the new government's fight against corruption and poverty," appealing to the lawmakers to "act as swiftly" as this lasth feature of Congress can justify the budget measure before December.

Great majority present

It was the "very first time that a great majority" was present to pass a budget bill, he said, to applause from the chamber.

"We know this budget would be a key tool of the Aquino administration's economic growth, the budget can pursued his statement. Days ang hun to turn on the hood," said Rep. Teodorico Haresco Jr.

Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II commended Senator Pimentel, Emilio Abaya, the chair of the House appropriations committee, for steering the passage of "quality legislation."

Top 10 budgets

The 10 departments that received the biggest allocations were: education (including educational facilities fund), P307.3 billion; public works and highways, P138.6 billion; and national defense (including personnel and MOV modernization program), P184.7 billion; interior and local government (including pension), P88.2 billion; agriculture, P37.7 billion; social welfare and development, P34.0 billion; health, P32.3 billion; transportation and communications, P92.3 billion; agrarian reform, P16.7 billion; and judiciary, P14.3 billion.

The 2011 budget contains more pork barrel, funds for Malacañang and the lawmakers.

P21-B CCT: too

After managing to pass through the House wringer was the controversial P21 billion conditional cash transfer (CCT) for the poorest Filipinos, which Mr. Aquino's budget chief, Florencio Abad, justified as the only way for the country to fulfill the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (reduce poverty) and bolster poverty-ridden.

Critics of the CCT—both from the majority and minority blocs—cited it ripe to heritage the P116 billion budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

But exercise by provide conditional cash transfer (CCT) to the poorest of the poor, Aquino's budget chief, Florencio Abad, justified as the only way for the country to fulfill the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (reduce poverty) and bolster poverty-ridden.

Critics of the CCT—both from the majority and minority blocs—cited it ripe to heritage the P116 billion budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

But exercise by provide conditional cash transfer (CCT) to the poorest of the poor, which Mr.

Congratulations to the finalists!

7th sweep

INNOVATION & EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Nine schools made it to the final round of Smart's annual search for innovative wireless applications and have a chance at winning the P1 million grand prize!

Ateneo de Naga University: Community-Driven Social Welfare and Emergency Responder Information System manages an array of services such as a missing persons directory, ambulance and fire assistance request, and resources/equipment directory.

Bulacan State University: Dengue Detecting Device (3D) addresses the dengue epidemic.

University of Baguio: Self-sustaining Street Lights with Wireless Monitoring System hopes to generate electricity from moving vehicles.

Ateneo de Zamboanga University: Automated Load Rationing System (ALRS) is a public service that automatically forbids cell phones anywhere and anytime.

Holy Cross of Davao College: Overload Monitoring for Davao City Marine Transportation is designed to prevent overloading in marine vessels.

University of San Carlos: Preventive Illegal Logging Monitoring Endeavor (PHIME) has accelerators' sensor detection mechanism, which sends SMS upon chainsaw-sound detection, thus providing a 24/7 monitoring of forests.

Batangas State University: SMART Farmbiz is an SMS-based Automated Drip Irrigation System.

Mapua Institute of Technology: Flood Alert System Using Smart SMS Technology seeks to aid in disaster preparedness from storms and floods.

University of Southeastern – Philippines: Its Hydrogen-Fueled Electric Generator provides an environmentally-friendly alternative to fuel-run generators.

Batangas State University: SMART Power Vendo is a GSM-based prepaid electricity system that has energy monitoring, SMS inquiries capability and electricity management features.

The 10 shortlisted entries from nine schools (4 in Luzon, 1 in Manila, 1 in Cebu and 3 in Mindanao) were selected from 133 entries submitted by 26 partner-schools of Smart Communications, Inc. (SWEEP) under its Smart Wireless Engineering Education Program (SWEEP).

Smart's challenge this year was for SWEEP partner schools to develop wireless applications in alignment with the theme "Empowering Communities through Wireless Technologies." The awards program is part of SWEEP, an industry-academe partnership that aims to help raise the level of technology and engineering education in the country, particularly in the field of Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE).

The finalists presented their projects before a board of judges, composed of three experts from Smart and two independent members. The student-faculty teams will now move on to develop the prototypes and fine tune their applications in time for the final judging in March 2010. The top three teams will win cash prizes with corresponding grants awarded to their schools with first prize at ₱500,000; second prize, ₱300,000; and third prize, ₱150,000.

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KABALIKAT sa Edukasyon

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Young Einsteins launch 'rocket' in Metro

By Nikka Calleja

ASK A ROOMFUL of students who wants to be a scientist and, chances are, only one or two will express an interest in being one someday.

But ask them who would like to join a reality TV contest or be an actor like John Lloyd Cruz or a singer like Charice, and it's likely that many will raise their hands. Glare and big hurdle notwithstanding, the students' lack of interest in science and technology, the Science and Education Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) decided to try another path by turning a science event into a sport. The National Project-Inspired Rocket Launching Competition.

The contest, held recently at Riverbanks in Marikina City and attended by 24 schools, is an annual event that hopes to make science interesting and enjoyable to the youth.

At the end of the day, Adlai Dampong, a fourth-year high school student, and Edward Lanzo Oyza, a junior, both from Asian Development Foundation College in Tarlac City, emerged as winners.

They will compete at the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) Water Rocket Event on Nov. 20-21 in Melbourne, Australia.

Dampong, 16, said he never imagined that launching a rocket could be also be a sport and a fun way to learn science concepts, particularly physics.

For the competition, the schoolmates filled their rocket with water, pumping the launcher for 60 pressure. At that point, Dampong and Oyza aimed the rocket at the sky and let it go.

The rocket landed close to the target goal dubbed Planet Mars, beating participants from 23 public and private schools in the afternoon con-

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Young Einsteins launch 'rocket'

Pretengage A12

CERTIFIED Louie Cina and Julius Gacayan (center) receive their certificates of recognition as winners in the Rocket ESC Watch Out 3D from MS. DOST's Dr. Leticia V. Cuna, Marla Loretta Gonzales-Tan, team coach, and Noreen Rocha, Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology president.

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Smokey Mountain high in field of dreams

By Jeannette Llavador

MINE YEAR-OLD Lush Mae Navarra, the only girl in a group of 50 Smokey Mountain kids from Tondo in Manila, has found hope through football.

Lush doesn't mind running across a field, the length of four buses linked up, chasing a soccer ball and being like one of the boys, as long as she realizes her dream of becoming a veterinarian and having fun in the process.

A grade 4 pupil at Vitas Elementary School, the diminutive Lush told the Inquirer she was confident she can keep up with the boys as their community's new football club offers batting essential training in the sport since June.

Like the 49 other children in the football club, she believes their introduction to the game, the most popular sport in the world, by the Manila Jaycees and the Gawad Kalinga (GK) can bring them closer to their dreams.

John Lim, project manager of the "Futbol para sa Pagasa" for Junior Chamber International (JCI) Manila said the primary aim of the training program was to empower children through sports.

"Children have the right to play. We just want to bring back the child in each of them and not make them grow up or mature on fast without enjoying their childhood first," Lim explained.

The children of Smokey Mountain are forced to maintain jobs to earn for their families. Lush's supposed to scavenge for a living, she added.

"The futbol field is a place where kids can be kids," he pointed out, adding that some 50 children, aged 7 to 15 years old, have joined the football club.

The "Futbol para sa Pagasa" project manager said the Jaycees and GK came up with the project in August, believing that Filipinos have the right build for the sport. It was Manuel Marquez, GK project director for Smokey Mountain, who had suggested putting up a football club.

The groups converted a 60 x 40 square meter field at the foot of a former dump—once the symbol of poverty and hopelessness but now a mountain of green—into a football dreamland.

It is the Smokey Mountain kids' own field of dreams.

After fencing off the area, a sports center was built for some seven residents of Smokey Mountain. Marquez and Gino Regino were responsible for training the club members.

"Upon arrival to bring out the teamwork spirit and instill discipline in children," Lanz said. "We started with football. We did not think the kids would be interested in the game since basketball is the favorite sport in the country, but it caught on. The next thing happened with football."

Lush said playing football developed a sense of dignity among the children who learned that they were playing a game that had drawn the interest of millions of people around the world. "It also gave them a direction and a goal—that they could rise above their humiliation," Lanz added.

Apart from football and basketball, the Manila Jaycees and the GK are planning to introduce ultimate Frisbee, kickball and aerobics to the kids.

Teresa Grana, 42, told Inquirer that her 10-year-old son Nicolas had been hooked on football since he learned to play the game. After his morning classes, Archie would put on his gear and immediately head for the field, she said.

"Some of the children used to go straight to the Internet shop after school and play computers all day. Now they go straight to the field for football practice," Grana said.

Another mother, Norma Granada, said they would accompany their children to the activities because they want their parents to watch them play.

"Now we no longer have to worry where they are or where they go to after school," she said.

Granada added that there are many drug addicts and solvent abusers in their neighborhood, and it was assuring to know that her 11-year-old son Raymark would not be among them.

As Lush ran around the field with the other members of the football club, clad in a white and green "Smokey" jersey, her mother Analie looked on proudly at her youngest child, saying that her daughter had now become a sticker for discipline.

Her older son had joined the football club while her three other children have volunteered for other GK projects.

"It is better for my kids to run in the field than in the streets where it would be so easy for them to pick up obnoxious ways," Analie said. "Who knows? Lush could even become an ex-collar football player and fulfill her own dreams."

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The WORLD
Editor Lawrence B. Guaico

North Korea vows to attack South propaganda sites

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—In the first aggressive threat by North Korea since a new leadership hierarchy was announced last month, the North vowed to attack South Korea if the South resumed a propaganda war along their border, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said on Friday.

With the youngest son of North Korea's leader Kim Jong-il, seen officially in line to succeed him, the North vowed to destroy propaganda sites in the South with "physical strikes," according to a military official who was not named in the KCNA report. Those sites would most likely include radio transmitters placed along the border.

"We do not come cowering at unusually use cell or even condone any minor provocation or act of war that threatens peace," the KCNA report said, in a translation by the Yonhap News Agency in Seoul.

The North Korean military official was also quoted as saying, "If the South does not stop anti-Pyongyang psychological broadcasts and the dissemination of leaflets, it will be met with our military's strikes on those sites."

It came just ahead of the news suggesting that broadcasts had been restarted by the South, and a spokesperson for the South Korean Defense Ministry could not be reached for comment early Saturday.

On Oct. 5, just days after a landmark meeting of the North Korean Workers' Party, the South Korean defense ministry fire Taesong, said his military had organized its system of loudspeakers along the border and was prepared to send leaflets balloons into South Korea carrying AM radios and propaganda leaflets. He said a new propaganda war would be initiated if the South was provoked.

The South has previously warned that its artillery will fire across the border to destroy the loudspeakers if the broadcasts resume. It also said it would shut down a jointly operated industrial complex in a North Korean town, Kaesong.

The language in the latest KCNA report was relatively restrained. The agency often issues bellicose threats against South Korea and the US, employing a more scatalogy than resembles the propaganda broadsides and leaflet slogans used by the former Soviet Union.

But a continuing battle newspaper by South Korean civilian activists has deeply angered the North, which tries to control the information crossing its citizens. The North made an issue of the leaflets at recent bilateral military talks at a border village, Panmunjom. The three officials Kim Jong-il and his government. And call upon North Koreans to defy the government. AFP

World's longest tunnel completed

MORIEN, SWITZERLAND—Workers hugged, cheered and set off fireworks as the huge drill broke through the last stretch of rock deep in the Swiss Alps. There was delight at the end of the tunnel—the world's longest—when it was completed on Friday.

The $10-billion, 57-km tube will connect Europe's high-speed rail network and is part of a larger effort to cut in half the number of trucks—now at 1.2 million—that thunder through the Alps each year.

The joy and pride felt throughout Switzerland over digging the Gotthard Base Tunnel reflected the vote count that saves the country's wealthy city dwellers with their living in traditional villages protecting the beauty of the mountains.

"Together we risked a lot," said Swiss Transport Minister Moritz Leuenberger. "Together we achieved a lot."

Swiss voters approved the tunnel's construction in a series of referendums almost 20 years ago. Despite some criticism at the cost—almost $1,300 for every citizen—the proposal passed by a wide margin.

Leuenberger, who is also in charge of transportation issues, said the Swiss "made and took a swipe at neighboring Germany, where popular opposition threatens to halt the construction of new high-speed rail links and underground train stations.

"Today proves how sustainable, strong and efficient our direct democracy is," he told reporters. MPs and reporters await the last-mile underground celebrations.

His words were echoed by one of the 2,300 workers who toiled for more than a decade. Heinz Meyer, an electrician from Germany, expressed his awe that Switzerland—a country of just under eight million people—had chosen to pursue such an ambitious project. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

All but two Chile miners back home

COPIAPO, Chile—Thirty-one of the 33 miners rescue Chile were back home on Saturday after doctors gave them the all-clear to pick up their lives again, as grassroots festivals of Finns' underground suffering emerged. Psychiatrist Yuri Haasbrunn said the two remaining miners, who were not named, had been transferred to clinics for more treatment, one for mental surgery, the other suffering from spells of dizziness. The 28 miners released on Friday were driven discreetly from the hospital in the mother's running limo of Copiapo without stopping to speak to the horde of journalists camped outside, hoping for interviews. The miners, in a surreal readjustment to their sudden fame as they head home and ponder tempting offers of holidays and cash. AFP

US government opposes California proposal to legalize marijuana

SAN FRANCISCO—Atty. Gen. Eric Holder says the federal government will enforce its marijuana laws in California even if voters next month make the state the first in the nation to legalize the drug. The Justice Department is strongly opposed to California's Proposition 19 and remains firmly committed to enforcing the federal Controlled Substances Act in all states, Holder wrote in a letter to lawmakers of the US Drug Enforcement Administration. The attorney general also said that legalizing recreational marijuana in California would be a "significant impediment" to the government's joint efforts with state and local law enforcement to target drug traffickers, who often also traffic marijuana and other controlled substances. If Proposition 19 passes in November, California would become the first US state to legalize and regulate recreational pot use. Adults could possess up to one ounce of the drug and grow small gardens on private property. Local governments would decide whether to allow and tax sales of the drug. The measure clashed with federal authorities over marijuana since 1996, when voters approved a first-of-its-kind ballot measure that allowed people to grow and use pot for medical purposes. Thirteen other states and Washington, DC, have legalized medical marijuana. AP

In US, Botox shots approved as migraine treatment

THE FOOD and Drug Administration on Friday approved Botox, the antiwrinkle shot from Allergan, as a treatment to prevent chronic migraines, a little more than a month after the company agreed to pay $600 million to settle allegations that it had illegally marketed the drug for unapproved uses like headaches for years.

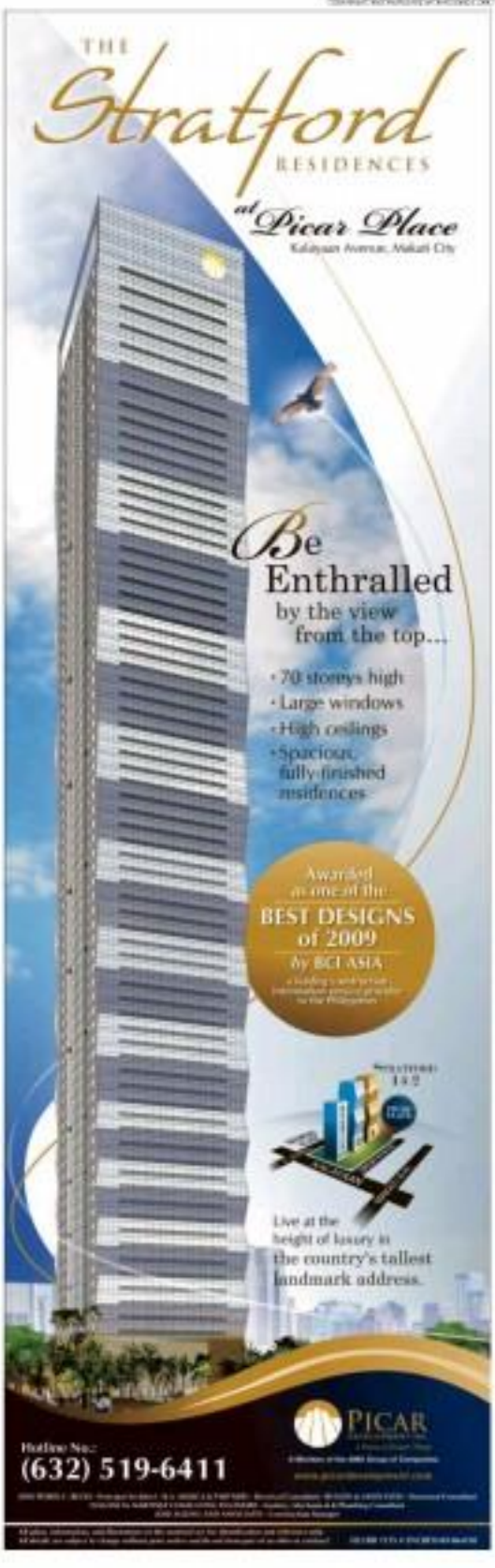
The agency's decision endorses doctors' use of Botox to treat patients who suffer from a severe form of migraine involving headaches on at least 15 days a month. Botox's drug agency approved terms for the same use this summer.

Botox is already approved by the FDA to treat uncontrolled blinking, crossed eyes, certain neck muscle spasms, excessive underarm sweating, muscle stiffness in the elbows and hands, and for cosmetic purposes—to smooth lines between the eyebrows.

Botox had worldwide sales last year of about $1.3 billion, divided equally between medical and cosmetic uses.

But Allergan said sales of Botox for chronic migraines and other conditions are so small some eclipse sales of the drug as a wrinkle smoother. Allergan is also studying the drug for a variety of new medical uses, including overactive bladder, said the company's executive vice president, Dr. Scott W. Whitcup.

"For the treatments, Botox has been an incredible medicine," he said. It can pipeline in a vial," Whitcup said. "People still think about it as a cosmetic product, but the therapeutic indications in the next five years will be surpass its cosmetic use." WSJ



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KIDD (center) and the Barako Bull Energy Boosters hope to pull off another surprise after their upset of the Meralco Bolts. NONOY NUÑEZ

ROAD GAME

Express slip past Llamados in Naga

By Mineo R. Cacilla

NAGA, CITY—Ryan Buenafe scored 22 points and Wesley Gonzales knocked down two crucial jumpers in the fourth quarter as Air21 clipped past Barby 102, 77-68, last night in a PBA Philippine Cup road game presented by Phoenix Fuel at the Naga Colosseum here.

The Express survived the loss of an eight-point fourth quarter lead to Tyrell by two-for-a-penalty but the rest of the way and won for the first time in three games.

Air21 edged out a 77-58 deficit with a Buenafe triple and a long jumper by Gonzales as the Express went on to chip a third straight loss on the reeling wounded Llamados.

Barby also managed to stay within four, 85-81, after several possessions but Gonzales and Wynne Arboleda each drained a key as the Express zoomed to a decisive 71-61 lead.

It was a big win for the Express, who took a stinging 80-89 loss last week when Jeff Chan knocked in a triple at the buzzer to win it for Hsin-ei Meiyu.

Barby Ilas continued to gasp for hope, with the 11 points of Nino Aaron Matias leading the squad. Reigning MVP James Yap was bottled up no end by the unforgiving Air21 defense and was held to just eight markers.

The Llamados took the first half, 38-35, after controlling the boards despite the continued absence of big men Paul Bruins, Marc Pingris and pummeled all-star Rudy Reyneveld.

Air21 coaches Boosters

Meanwhile, other squads San Miguel and Barangay Ginebra sing it out for the first time this season at 6:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao with the winner grabbing a share of third place.

Air Agents, just days after moving San Sebastian to second place in the just-concluded PCAA, will call the shots for San Miguel on a full time basis with Gee Abanilla in drilling leash to assistant.

Tied at 1-1, both squads will be coming off contesting losses, with the Boosters still licking the wounds of an 85-97 blowout loss to Talk 'N Text and the second-placing Elite Kings hoping to take the preseason cool as 82-75 victory over Petron-ado.

The Tigers and Barako Bull will clash earlier at 4 p.m. with the winner staying astride half a game of idle pacesetter Far Eastern Textiles and Alaska.

Ayanna was named coach of the Boosters more than three weeks before the start of the season, but the one-time MVP and member of the league's 25 Greatest list first fulfilled his obligation as with the Kings.

He did admit to some members of the media recently that he has been very hands-on in preparing the Boosters. Ayanna said he will now implement the same philosophy that he adopted to the Kings when they won four straight PBCAs.

And he has an abundance of talent in the Jun Magsol roster with Dondon Hontiveros, Jay Washington and an extra-hearted frontline ready to back his running philosophy.

Mark Caguioa, Jan-Jan Sumbrendrend and former two-time MVP Willie Miller will carry the fight for the Kings.

The Energy Boosters picked up their first win of the season by upsetting seven-time Meralco two weeks ago, and Barako Bull is hoping to play the same kind of defense against the Tigers.

"We can't underestimate anybody out there," Barako Bull coach Jamel Bacudo had told reporters. "But we owe our defend them."

The scores:

LAIR 21 (P. Barnett 18, Gonzales 9, Muñoz 8, Barrios 8, Reyes 8, Arboleda 5, Arellano 4, Hilario 2, Limbaco 2, Pumaren 2, Samuel 2, Ramos 2, Gamboa 2, Raymundo 2, Gamboa 2, Ramos 2, Gamboa 2)

BARBY ILAS 89—Gonzales 17, Alabanza 12, Villanueva 8, Yap 8, Mendoza 8, Guadalupe 6, Pascual 6, Ilas 5, Salvador 3, Alcala 2.

Quarters: 16-15, 35-38, 53-48, 77-68

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3 Filipino boxers barge into Tammer Cup finals

NAMFREL: Too classy for her

FEATHERWEIGHT Charly Suarez, light walker Delfin Bolanio and light fly Victorio Saludar reached the finals in their respective divisions with impressive victories Saturday at the 31st Tammer Cup in Tampere, Finland.

Suarez overwhelmed Jenni Hjaltadottir of host country Finland, 7-2; Bolanio outclassed another Finn, Jarkko Pelkonen, 6-0, and Saludar whipped Alexey Ivanchenko of Russia, 4-1, in early semifinal bouts.

Flyweight Sky Saludar was set to face Dorian Gamaghty of Ireland at promotime in a bid to complete a four-for-four semifinal romp for the PLDT-Abap team preparing for the Asian Games in Guangzhou, China, next month.

Saludar was the last to join Suarez, Bolanio and younger brother Victorio in the semis Friday when he stopped ahead of Ahmirad of the United Arab Emirates.

Saludar proved too classy for the UAE bet, who took three standing eight counts before the bout was halted with 1:38 left in the opening round.

The stoppage matched a stint for hospitalized Pro brother Victorio, who put away Iran's Ali Gholamali Mai (Dumbbell unit) 1:51 to go in the first round of their light flyweight bout earlier in the day.

Suarez, who at one of 14 elite athletes from 13 countries around the world selected by the GMS steering group in preparation for the 2012 London Olympics, overcame rough Russian Anatoly Bo-

rov 2-1, in the quarterfinals.

Bolanio hacked out a 4-1 win over Scotland's James Tucson, who moved within 2-1 in the second round.

Pinoys were cautiously optimistic of the chances of the four members of the PLDT-Abap national squad going into the semis.

"Our main goal here is to have a tough tune-up for the coming Asian Games. Medals are for getting that. If we win a gold medal or two, that would be a welcome bonus," he said.

The trip here is the last leg of the "Road to Asian Games" blueprint designed by Abap president Ricky Vargas and given all-out support by businessman-philanthropist Manny Pangilinan, chair of Abap and telecommunications giant PLDT.

The long road started with bouts in Baguio and Manila, training camps and tournaments in China and the United States and International tournament in Manila—the MVP Cup.

Bonnie Nechanicky

Margarito in great shape, a threat to Pacman–Arum

By Bonnie Nechanicky

TAKE IT from venerable promoter Bob Arum.

Mexican warrior Antonio Margarito is in the best shape of his career and should pose a grave threat to second-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 13.

Arum, who arrived in Manila yesterday morning from Los Angeles with his son-in-law Tom Loeffler, said the hesome duo Margarito is not going to waste the opportunity to redeem himself after his suspension and ring layoff.

"Look, if you were Margarito and you were suspended from boxing for a relatively long time and now you get the opportunity to be on this world stage, you are going to kill yourself to prepare," Arum said.

The 79-year-old Arum, chief honcho of Top Rank, which promotes both Margarito and Pacquiao, said Margarito "is in the best shape that I've ever seen and would be a big danger to any welterweight in the world."

The boxing skull-of-lumor noted, however, that "Pacquiao is something special and no matter how big they are Manny can handle them."

Still, the Pacquiao bad mopped up his training in Baguio City, Arum replied: "Still he better step up his training because this guy (Margarito) poses some very very unique dangers."

Arum said Margarito "is big, a strong

ANTONIO Margarito (right) impresses during sparring in Oxnard, California. (Courtesy Top Rank)

and will push Manny into the ropes and do serious and Manny has to be able to utilize that incredible speed that he has to gather with his ability to punch with both hands."

Arum added that he won't talk to Pacquiao about how good Margarito has looked in training "because there are so many different people talking to Manny getting him overlooked caution."

Arum and Dela were joined by Pacquiao's wife Jinkee, friends John Avon and Mike Bates, and some others when they flew to Baguio aboard the plane of Boracay Gov Lote "Cheryl" Tarpuz.

Pacquiao had for a total of nine rounds against Glen Tapia and Michael Medina yesterday afternoon.

Though Bando told the lawyers that Pacquiao "getting better every day" the four-time Boxing of the Year said his primed mood was better (on Friday).

Meanwhile, Team Pacquiao will wait for Top Rank Australia before making a move.

"We are dealing with it when it gets here," said Bando, adding that Pacquiao will not get a Sunday break and continue his training today. **With a report from Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon**

Abet surgery an 'apparent success'

IN HUDDLE

Bude Cuda

MOMENTS after husband Abet Guidaben's open heart surgery at the University Medical Center last Oct. 14, wife Maribel was on the phone in an instant that the operation "was an apparent success."

Maribel told Buffy Ignacio, secretary-general of the PBA Legends Foundation (LFI), that the delicate procedure took all of four hours, starting at 1:30 in the afternoon, lasting up to 7:30 in the evening.

Still heavy with somnolence, Abet was still sleeping while Maribel was talking with Buffy on the phone. He was not supposed to be fully awake until the following day.

***

The surgeons had removed Abet's dyspnea, a gland situated inside the chest near the heart, in an effort to check the progress of the disease called Myasthenia Gravis. The doctors also removed a tumor the size of a golf ball, which they found lodged in his breast.

Maribel for will had undergone a flip replacement operation some weeks back and was confined in a rehabilitation center. She left the hospital to take care of her husband after was already suffering the debilitating symptoms of thymectomia. Clearly, Maribel must have felt grossly frustrated at the time.

I requested both Buffy and Abe Bing for regular updates on both Abet and Maribel's condition. Meantime, the Guidabens family wishes to extend their sincere gratitude "to all the wonderful people who continue to pray for Abet's recovery."

***

The update on Guidaben's condition was made by the PBA Legends Foundation (LFI) chair Ato Agustin who was recently in Manila to present donations on behalf of the foundation.

Ato said his last visit was most emotional and fulfilling because he had the chance to host a reunion with 8 Original Alaska Aces members, namely Jun Papa, Boy Cabahug, Abet Guidaben, Chito Loyzaga and Allan Caidic and most especially his former coach, The Amazin' Baby Dalupan.

Although almost completely blind in both eyes, Baby treasures all his strength to attend the 19th Pete Cope Awards night next year.

The major award for the entertainer's hour crowd the year honored after Baby, who, to this day, remains the winningest coach of the PBA.

Abe was under Baby when Pesto earned championship almost two decades ago. I remember correctly, the two teamed at Purefoods in the early '90s.

***

Abe was a bit dishearten ed when he ran on the name table with The Maestro for some minutes and yet his former cronies had ignored him. Turns out, absolutely no sign of recognition from Baby.

It took awhile before Abe realized that Baby could hardly see him.

"All I see are shadows and silhouettes moving," said Baby, whose mind remains as sharp as it had been many years ago.

Once he identifies the person he is talking with, Baby could talk at length about the past, which he distinctly remembers. Unless you identify yourself, however, he will not recognize you or your voice.

***

I was in the same table with Baby and Abe, but I deliberately did not approach him to introduce myself. I waited, thinking that he might be able to recognize my voice.

He never did. When the proceedings were coming to an end, I decided to approach the Maestro to identify myself. It was always happy to "see" me and that night was no exception.

Baby had me sit next to Baby in the same table reminiscing about the good old days with Pesto and Purefoods, the last team Abe played for and also the last team Baby coached.

SPORTSWATCH

Tennis clinic at MPC

THE PYRAMID Tennis Academy, Thailand's leading tennis school, will conduct a five-day clinic for beginners, intermediate and advanced juniors/players on Oct. 24-28 at the Manila Polo Club Inside Forbes Park.

Held in cooperation with the United Tennis Coaches of the Philippines headed by Edward Pons, the clinic will be conducted by Boong Chaidee-sook, one of only 28 coaches who holds an ITF Level 3 coaching certificate.

For details, contact Manila Polo Club Sports and Socials Chair at 817-7535 or ESSEA Events at 895-4453 or email sportsjunior@boardpolo.com.ph.

LGBA finals in Makati

MUZ-PACO executive Ike Lucio Sarmiento Breeders Association (LSBC-2010 Dog Series) go to Makati Coliseum on Oct. 16 and 17 featuring the championship round.

Ranked by League Dog Inc., Supreme Sandbar Threats and Thunderbird, the 1-stag event drew a total of 140 entries for the first leg.

Due to the big number of signs for the 1-stag finals, the qualifiers were divided into two groups. A total of 90 participants in the Sunday will throw arms each, among them Jilmy Cortopassi, Ben Castro, Windell Chua and Jimmy Esparza, Tony Rueda, Larry Sevilla and Bobbi Tenorio.

Runs

1—Gorilla
(R. Yong, D. Sister Tagal [1], D. Ping) ... At Manila Polo Club [20], Rustan Blue [1]

Runs 2—Chi—Charge Forward (1), Fear No Weight (4), Bobbi Ace (1)

Runs 3—Chi—Juggling Act (3), Beauty Express (1), Grand Opening (2)

Runs 4—Pete/Ed/Chi—Rustans Best (1), Tiger Blood (5), Distant (5), Redemption (2), Sweet Deal (1), Impression (2)

Runs 5—Pete/Ed/Chi—Cone's Rival (4), Smart Ass (2), Endlessmajorbattle (3), Mando's Magic (1), Winning Spirit (2)

Runs 6—Chi—Big Bang Dream Supreme (4), Dancing Answer (3)

Runs 7—Pete/Bobby—Mature (2)

Viloria battles Thai knockout artist

MIAMI "The Hawaiian Punch" Vloria continues his quest for a crack at another world title when he battles Thai knockout artist Lamnipetch Sor Vorapet on June 5 in Boxing at the Bay 5, Friday Night Duel at the Tropics Sports Arena in Bangkok.

Last July, Viloria edged out an unimpressive split decision victory over Mexican Omar Soto to raise his record to 27-3-0 with 13 KOs.

The 29-year-old Viloria knocked out Ulises Solis in the 10th round on April 10, 2009 to win the International Boxing Federation light flyweight title.

After successfully defending his title a couple of times, Viloria will try to bring back the one growth knocking power of his right to the head to be called over Soho TV and Solar Sports.

The 32-year-old Vorapet should be no pushover, however.

In his most recent win, Vorapet

Talao voted PBA scribes president anew

Sports writers' beat sports editor Tito Talao was voted to a second term as president of the PBA Press Corps at the Sunday Bonanzaone press room recently.

Also retaining their posts are Punjab Journal's Dominic Uy, vice president; Bulletin's Waylon Gatus, secretary; PM sports writer Mike Dalisayan, treasurer; and Tribune's Ronnie Carabeng, auditor.

Sports editors Ding Mendoza of the Bulletin, Lito Tanquin of the Star, Philippine Sportswriters Association president Teofilo Mendoza of the Inquirer, PCSOP president Eddie Gimena, former PBAPC president Nelson Beltran of the Sun and Rick Cortez of Balitaan, and Manong Castillo of the Tribune kept their seats in the board of directors.

CHAMPS The University of Manila Hawks celebrate their Maaco championship with supporters and staff. The team, which won the title recently after beating STI, is composed of (first row, from left) Cedric Delagon, Kevin Rebollo, Jeff Mirto, Warren Rhonaldo Collins, Reigner Macasaet and Edmar Pasaoa. On the second row are (from left) Jhonrhea Patricio, Alvin Almario, Jik Tan, Emdar Tamayo, assistant coach Gino Manansala, coach Felix Castillo, PVP league Ernesto Delos Santos, Dr. Ernesto Jay Adalem (Maaco president), consultant Ben Manansala, Eugene Torres, Jay-Ar Manuel, Jayson Ilao, Jerry Asoluna, and assistant coaches RJ Patricio and Rizalito Dalmero.

SJC bares Rambulan 2 derby format

FOR THIS year's Rambulan 2 National 9-ball derby the management of San Juan Coliseum will adopt the same format that faced 2,869 entries last year.

With a whopping P40 million at stake, the champion will receive P22 million, any eight points only, P9 million, any seven points only, P5.5 million, any six points only, P3 million and any five points only P6 million. The winning handler and golfer get P1 million and P500,000, respectively.

Cooped first at SJC alleys on Nov. 8, 10, 13 and 15.

"There was a strong positive feedback from gamefowl breeders regarding the prize distribution," said SJC Rambulan team leader Ariel Custodio.

RP women confident of Seaba hoops gold

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PASIG, PHILIPPINES (the Asian Games joint at stake, the Philippine women's basketball team is shooting for no less than the gold medal when it hosts the Southeast Asian Championships next week.

The ASP cagebelles said they are ready to take on the region's best teams that include defending champion Thailand, SEA Games silver Malaysia, and perennial contender Indonesia.

"We want to gift the country to first international championship, we have been preparing for this for the past two years," said national head coach Derik Ong during the Seaba send-forth ceremony recently.

Ong said also is also counting on the crowd support for the event which will be held Oct. 24 to 29 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Philippines, which placed third in the 2007 Southeast Asian Games, will be represented by Melissa Jacob, Asa Pineda and Cassandra Noel Tiamzon, Silvia Marie Mariscla, Jean Cabanero, Sarah Adriano, Merwenaires Aasyl, Angeli Jo Clarissi, Ma. Ana Fatima Tolentino, Bernadette Mercado, Diana Rose Jose, Blanca Lalanne Floresca and Cheri Borja.

The team failed to make it to the finals because of a conflict of schedule. The host Philippines was supposed to play Indonesia for the last slot. If while the Seaba, the host qualifying event, was scheduled only last this month.

"It's disappointing that we couldn't go to the Asian Games but there are certain things that are beyond our control. The good thing is that we still have the Seaba, at least we have a venue to prove that we're deserving of our slot in the Asian Games," Ong said.

The squad, supported by manager Uya, this Wo of Discovery Suites, will play against Singapore on opening day.

Interschool Jungolf gets going today

ORAS, DUMAGUETE: Sixty-six players from 22 Metro Manila schools will compete in the 1st ICTSI Inter School Golf Championships set to kick off today at the INC Filipinas Golf Club in San Pedro, Laguna.

The big field will play in two batches over four fourballs with today's group playing its second round on Hole 3 at the Philippine Navy Golf Club course. The second group is scheduled to play on Oct. 24 at INC Filipinas and Hole 14 at the Philippine Navy.

The Interschool series is still part of the year-round talent development program being nurtured by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. with the Golf Training of the International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI).

Philippine Airlines, Portcalm House Group, Everyside Day and Manila Pepper are major sponsors. Other sponsors are Smart, Inspirare Gold, Friends of JGFP Dynamos Sports and Premier Insurance.

Participating schools are Ateneo School, Ateneo de Manila University, Assumption College, Brent International, Brent International, DLSU-Canlubang, DLSU-Taft, College of St. Benilde, Iloilo Jaro Diocesan School, Integrated Montessori School, Koinonia, Nobel International, La Salle Green Hills, Morning Star Montessori, St. Paul's College, Southville International, The Shaw's Academy, Sacred Heart, St. Francis of Assisi, School of the Holy Spirit, Xavier School.

Entries will be classified according to the following: Midgets 1 (Boys Grade 5-7); Midgets 2 (Boys Grade 2-4), Juniors (boys college/ Girls) (High school and college), Girls 2 (Grade 2-7), Juniors (boys high school).

DYNASTY IN THE MAKING?

Lions roaring for more

THE Red Lions will be virtually intact next season.

By Cedrik P. Reyes

WITH HS almost intact lineup and a slew of highly-touted recruits coming in, all signs indicate another San Beda dynasty in the NCAA.

"There's more (titles) to come in the next few years," coach Boni Ilustre coach Franklin Lim shortly after the Lions blasted the San Sebastian Stags, 95-80, Wednesday night to complete an 11-0 sweep of NCAA Season 86.

It was the fourth title in five years for the Lions and their third under Lim.

Only Borgie Hermida, a four-Beda student, the star 10-player, will leave the Lions' den.

"There is a lot of excitement, however, our rounding his replacement, NCAA junior Most Valuable Player Reed Juntay, who averaged a near triple double in leading the San Beda Cubs to back-to-back crowns.

"We'll have Baser Amer," Lim declared, adding what could be another top-of-the-list set playmaker from Zamboanga City who averaged close to 20 points and 13 assists in the sweep of the 100 Staglets in the finals.

Lim is also eyeing Cebu standouts Al Gothakan, Ven Chavez and Chris Javier and said he expects them to join the Lions' practices in the first week.

"We'll try to find a good balance in the team next year," said Lim. "We will try our best to make it strong once again."

Unless other teams would find an answer to their slash-running game and their dominant senior Ildefuel Bartel, the Lions are poised to crunch the Letran Knights' record 6-do hand of 16 collegiate basketball crowns.

The 6-foot-7 Daniel, the second foreigner after Asia Blaze to win the MVP award, saved his best game for the title-clincher last Wednesday, finishing with 24 points, 19 rebounds and five blocks.

"Now can you elaborate more when the guy receives two MVP awards," Lim said, referring to Daniel. "Complete turnaround from last year. You have to admire him for his persistence, for his commitment to get better."

Lim also attributed their success to the impressionist of veterans Enrico Laneta, Borgie Artis Dion and Jake Dacoral as well as the quality minutes provided by Anthony Ibanez and, whom, he said, played "big" for a rookie.

Lim stressed their perfect season was not an easy as it looked, saying their success was a product of hard work.

The Lions were all but outs of their 16-point win over Jose Rizal University and posted a 17-5 point winning cushion in the finals against San Sebastian.

"It can't be any better," said Lim. "I really think my guys deserve it. They've worked so hard in practice and that showed how serious and committed they were to getting better."

The Lions include the hunt for Lim, yesterday of San Beda's 1979 championship squad. The coach tells that his current squad is up there among the best San Beda teams of all time.

"The result will tell you and I hope five more guys to my rotation so it just means in the next few years there's more to come," he said.

San Beda's homegrown son bids school adieu

By Colnet Flores, Inquirer.net

SAN SEBA was where he learned to write—where he virtually grew up.

This time, Borgie Hermida is saying goodbye to his home for nearly two decades.

"This is where I learned everything I know," said Hermida, clutching the 2010 NCAA basketball trophy. In one, hand and a piece of history in the other.

In one last act before leaving, Hermida again played a pivotal role for the Lions with 18 points, four rebounds and five assists as San Beda knocked San Sebastian off its throne with a sweet 95-70 beating.

He will be best remembered, though, for his performance in the game that set up today's decider.

There, Hermida compiled 13 points, 13 boards and seven assists in a 69-73 statement win of the Stags.

Now, the 5-foot-9 Baguio-La Salida ratsan for 16 years, is itself embedded in NCAA hoops history after being a part of that three-peat here seasons (12 to 04 and being the cornerstone of the squad that logged an unprecedented 18-0 sweep of season 86.

"I think that this is the best way to graduate," said the emotional five-sensation, who has had five dramatic coaching several shooting the red and white shirts from the moment decision and one in the future. He will now take his act to the PBA's Barako Bull squad.

Indeed, there could have been no better way to end his career with the Lions, after getting physically toned out of the finals last year by the Stags. He made bad payback on the team.

"I thought about that last year and it was my motivation to the game," said Hermida. "But I didn't want to hurt them physically (Stags). I just wanted to play my game."

"I wasn't able to play well last season because of my injury," added Hermida, who came back to Baguio to undergo a second ACL injury... he's had one on each knee—sidelined him last year.

"I really wanted to make up for it so I grabbed every chance I could get this season," Hermida added.

Hermida provided the leadership and quality presence coach Franklin Lim sought. He averaged around 11 points per game and over five assists and rebounds despite even missing two games to other obligations round. He was the perfect complement to MVP center Reden Daniel.

"That guy is tough," said Lim. "Sometimes I have to tell him to slow down."

As Hermida knocked down a three-pointer with over 30 ticks remaining, Red Lions fans started chanting thanks for his time and the minds of Beda followers who attended the dominicano coast gathered grew up before their very eyes.

"This is how I want to remember San Beda," Hermida said.

After all, he came into San Beda a kid who didn't know how to write. Fittingly, on his way out, he wrote the Lions' name on the pages of NCAA history.

FOR Borgie Hermida, it's time to say goodbye.

Patrimonio, Nguyen breathe hope into RP tennis

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PROSPECTS are getting better and better for Philippine tennis.

Local readers said the events since two of junior netters Jamicha Nguyen and Anna Clarice Patrimonio indicate that that country can get to the top once again.

The 16-year old Nguyen bagged the Victoria, pattern by beating Patrimonio, 6-2, 6-4, in the finals last Friday. Patrimonio, 17, won the Hong Kong junior the other week.

Nguyen, daughter of former tennis star Edna Olivares, is a high school senior at Olivares College. She received under Ruel Sacramento and Antonio Dario Coppini Manny Trecson.

"We developed a style of game for her that made her competitive with the bigger and more powerful girls in the circuit especially in the higher grades," said Trecson.

He said Nguyen has improved her offense by taking the ball early and standing closer to the baseline, an aggressive stance that is also used by Serena's sister-rival Jessica Pegula.

"That enables her to cut the angles more sharply and to control the point," added Trecson. "She combines this with a good consistent defense that makes her opponent work for the points."

Trecson said he believes Nguyen will get better and better with more competitions abroad. She is ranked 580 in the world but is likely to break into the top 400 with her runners-up laugh.

GOLD STANDARD: The UST men's table tennis team receives its gold medal for ruling UAAP 73 As contee snaps are (from left, bottom row) Gigi Cortes (UAAP board member), Rod Bondoc(ong jubilee moderator) L coach Herbert Ortalla, and assistant coach Jackson Que (second row, from left) Lester Cotaton, Christian Mendoza, Raymond Mandapat, Zaren Mendiola, Michael Poon, top medalists Richie Bacor, JL Martin Dell, and PSP Cristian Ysmole.

GSK Wins PMAP Employer of the Year 2010

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BIDNATH

TRS-Ford Focus drivers deliver wins

THE TRS-Ford Focus Racing Team started its title campaign with a bang behind the dominating performances of new recruits Marvin Wong, Ivan Redpath and Bobby Nonoga recently in the 2010 Philippine Production Car Championship season opener at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

The trio bagged three championship trophies, three runner up honors and a third place finish in the four initial rounds of the event, banking on the racing excellence of the all new 1.6 liter Ford Focus race cars.

Seasoned wins drew out the best in Wong, who clocked 1:11.760 to pull ahead of the pack and win the initial race of his event contested by the Automobile Association Philippines.

Redpath made it a 1-2 finish for TRS-Ford Focus as he came in 10.158 seconds behind his teammate, beating Cyrille Bonnaire, who checked in 21.188 seconds later.

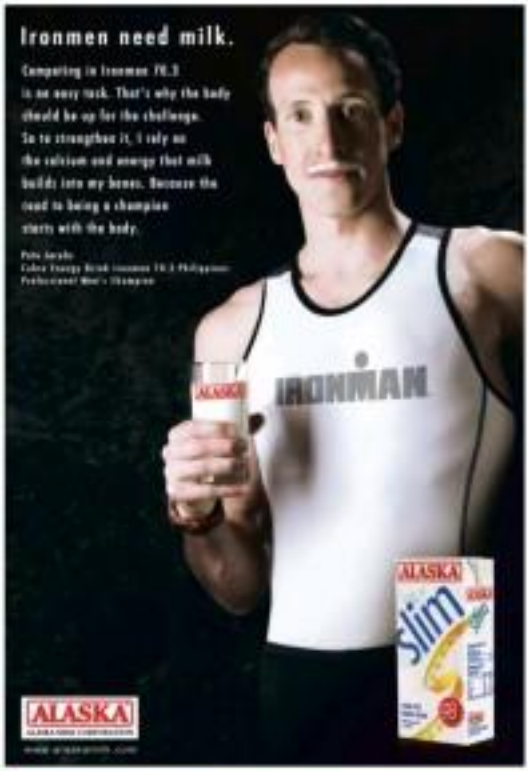
As the track dried up in the afternoon, both Wong and Redpath posted another 1-2 for the drivers, with Dean Jones clocking in third 0.479 seconds behind.

Wong, however, faced a setback in Round 3 the following day as he and Nonoga were slapped with technical penalties.

Redpath rose to the occasion as he rallied from fifth place to deliver the third title for the team over runner-up Aiyel Carlos and third place Dean Jones.

Redpath then edged Carlos in the afternoon race.

Nonoga took third place coming from the back of the grid as he moved up to fifth on the first lap to end passed two others midway the 10-lap race.



Sunday SPORTS

AL TITLE SERIES

Huge rally puts Yankees ahead

NEW York's Robinson Cano gets the Yankees pumped up with a solo homer run.

ARLINGTON, TEXAS—The New York Yankees scored five runs in the eighth inning and then held off a threatened Texas comeback to beat the Rangers, 6-5, on Friday in the opening game of the American League Championship Series.

The Rangers (and hell) a 3-0 lead and looked like finally winning their five ever home playoff game but New York had other ideas.

Robinson Cano hit a solo homer in the seventh to begin the Yankees' comeback. In the eighth, Brett Gardner's headfirst dive for second-field hit created the big rally.

Texas threatened in the ninth against ace Yankees closer Mariano Rivera, putting a runner on second with one out. But Rivera struck out Michael Young and retired Josh Hamilton on a grounder to end the game.

New York has won 16 consecutive postseason games against the Rangers, who were knocked out of the playoffs by the Yankees in their only three previous playoff appearances (1996, 1998 and 2009).

Texas—which won the AL Division Series over Tampa Bay with three road wins and two home losses—is 0-7 in home playoff games, five of those losses to the Yankees.

The Yankees became the first team to win a postseason game after trailing by at least four runs in the eighth since the 2000 Houston Astros, according to STATS LLC.

Hamilton's three-run homer off CC Sabathia in the first put Texas ahead, and only a fortunate bounce on what could've been a bases-loaded wild pitch later in the inning stopped the Rangers from getting more.

Texas' C.J. Wilson, the ersthy lefty reliever-turned-starter, blanked the Yankees through six innings before Cano's homer started things going woefully wrong for the Rangers.

Gardner, the speedy ninth-place hitter, led off the eighth with an infield hit and Derek Jeter followed with an RBI double to end the night for Wilson.

Marcus Oliver, the only player who had been in a playoff game with Texas before the season, came in with a 5-2 lead and walked the only two batters he faced.

New York's Alex Rodriguez, who had already struck out twice and made a fielding error to the delight of his former Texas fans, hit a grounder that hopped over Young's glove at third base. The single came against Darren O'Day, who faced only one batter and took the loss. AP

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday BIZ

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Everybody's Buddy

Text and photos by Elizabeth Laforga

FROM VEGETABLE farmer to friendly Illocrokus man to Black Gold dancer, the head of a chain of restaurants that carries his amiable nickname Buddy, Salvador ("Bado" in his provincial incarnation) Velez, has turned his current food business into fun and gain for the past 25 years.

When he married Nova Villanueva, who now handles the finances and pricing of 13 Buddy's branches (the latest is open located at The Link beside Landmark, Ayala Center, Makati City), Velez quit farming as the first of Mt. Banahaw in the 1980s, realizing that livelihood from the soil was like

NOVA and Buddy Velez

hitting the jackpot once in awhile.

"The income there is uncertain, and I couldn't rely on it because I was starting a family," he says. "Farming is better as a hobby."

His thought of going into the restaurant business when his plow of land planted to Baguio beans suffered an infestation. He began selling fresh lumpia in his hometown of Lucban, Quezon. (It has always been the family cook who taught himself how to bake at age 6 so it was easy to move from making rolls to handmade pancit and spaghetti).

The mother ship is still there, serving as commissary. It was followed by the first branch on the corner of Zapote Street and South Avenue in Makati. When the Velez couple was putting it up, neighbors were

'We're not conscious how big we've grown because we enjoy what we're doing'

closed about who'd patronize it, located as it was across from the South Cemetery. But Buddy's pompano and bistek recovered for P5-spice dishes cooked the Quezon province way, steaming, deep-cooked like the popular bangsilog which is named first, cooked and steamed before being served.

Velez has also gotten on board the home handicrafts. Buddy's is known, too, for its pancit Lucban cooked in olive oil and pares with chicken or seafood toppings. Usually this type of pancit comes with pork and chayote.

There's the Filipino place with toppings of chopped Lucban longganisa and white cheese. The fish-lady has a sidling of rare pieces of tuna aurora, the sweet and dessert balanced by the blandness of the sticky rice.

Repeat customers like ordering for delivery the variations of pancit because they come in a bilao with a deeply carved, not a flat, bottom so a medium order can feed as many as 20-25 people. A single order is good for four. Another favorite take-out are boxes of budin (tinuwa rider), also good with pancit which always carries the ingredient of chayote.

Buddy's Spaghetti is nothing more than pasta with toppings of mushroom and bacon. Picky lunch-rush customers may request that their food be cooked in olive oil or their pancit comes exclusively with veggies.

What is happy to oblige because the aim is to "offer what people want, and that is quality.

PHOTO courtesy of lugaw at new Makati branch (note sunflower motif).

SUPING and driver/co make dangle from the ceiling.

One day, a car will come along that's powered very differently.

Dramatically enhanced performance will be combined with low co2 emissions.

THIS IS THE POWER OF h

LEXUS

THE PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

Vermicompost boosts organic mangosteen fruit production

Vermicast improves water infiltration and soil water holding capacity

INORGANIC fertilizer application can be substituted with vermicast or vermicompost to improve without affecting the productivity of mangosteen. This, Magnolia Sigmaloma (MS) Ruth M. Martinez found out in her Science and Technology-based Farm (STBF) project on mangosteen production at her farm in Barangay Muzon-an in Bilaspuran City.

At a technology field day held at her farm, Martinez shared that she applied vermicompost at 5 kg/tree every three months. Then she increased this rate to 10 kg and 20 kg after the fruiting stage. She added that the production remained in her farm using crop nutrient mixed with goat manure.

Lorena at her farm observed that her mangosteen trees have bigger canopies and more branches laden with big fruits with smooth rind.

Based on the MS' partial budget analysis during the first cycle of fruit production, her income increased to P161,250 fruits an added yield of 1,613 kg of mangosteen fruit at P100/kg. In addition, she saved 2250 bags of vermicast and 555 kg of earthworms. Vermicast was sold at P250-400/bag; and worms at P800-1000/kg.

Dr. Antoon Calen, a technical expert from the University of Southern Mindanao (USM), explained the benefits and the science behind the MS practice. He set efforts in the MS' success in her use of vermicast which is a rich source of water soluble plant nutrients and microbial energy that enhances uptake of plant nutrients; improves water infiltration and soil water holding capacity; and promotes a strong and healthy root system.

Incidentally participants during the field day consisted of officials and representatives from the Bilaspuran City local government unit, Calabula Provincial Agricultural Office, Calabula Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Consortium, ICBP-IDRC), Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), and the Mangosteen Fruit Growers Association in Calabula.

The Bilaspuran Nursery Association and Philippine Farmers and Nationals' Assistance Development (PFARD) assisted the MS in the implementation of the project. S&T Media Service

MS Martinez (left) showing the vermicast production area. Right, bountiful growth and more branches laden with fruits of mangosteen trees with S&T intervention

"FMAN" Magnolia Sigmaloma, Roger Salvador (left) shows his harvest. The MS is a cooperator of PCAARRD's STBF project on peanut production

Making money out of peanuts

STA. PEANUTS, Magnolia Sigmaloma (MS) Roger Salvador realized this when he made money out of his "mani" or peanut production.

It all started in 2007 when the Science and Technology-based Farm (STBF) on peanut production was implemented in his farm in Barangay Anahaw in Jones, Isabela.

STBF is an innovative concept under the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) Tesdata Gabay Program where by an MS farm or enterprise is used to showcase the effectiveness of S&T (science and technology) interventions to increase the productivity and income of farmers on specific commodity and products.

As an STF, Manly Roger was selected based on his leadership and willingness to cooperate and share knowledge.

Results bear out the interventions

Manly Roger devoted ½ ha of his farm for his STBF plot and the other half for his MS practice. He faithfully managed plans.

At the STBF plot, he planted a new variety using more seeds but spaced further than traditionally done. He followed the recommended practices for his situation and used gypsum (hydrated calcium sulfate) as a side dress.

During the first cropping cycle alone, Manly Roger earned P28,554/ha more than his STBF plots than his traditionally managed plots. While the use of technology required him to shell out P6,000/ha, these interventions were able to bring in more than a three-fold increase in added income of P20,625.

With these initial results, it did not take long to convince Manly Roger of the effectiveness of the S&T interventions. In fact, he did not wait for the culmination of the STBF project to apply the interventions in his farm.

These cropping cycles have STBF plot yielding an average of 3,644 kg/ha equivalent to 36 percent increase while MS plots yielded 2,237 kg/ha. This means that an additional yield of 611 kg/ha/cropping cycle is possible with the use of S&T interventions. Despite the added costs of about P7,894/ha/cropping cycle to using the S&T interventions, added returns averaged P64,561/ha/cycle, thereby giving the MS an increased net income averaging P54,127/ha/cropping cycle.

The results in Manly Roger's STBF plot is a far cry from what peanut farmers unfavorably are experiencing. They, on the average, are only getting yields of 1.1 t/ha. In Region 2, farmers only average 1.2 t/ha from growing peanut using their varieties and traditional.

With the advent of newer varieties like Isabs Pnut 1 and 2 and component technologies like the use of rhizobium inoculant and gypsum application, among others, peanut farmers can more profitable to get as much as 1.8-3.2 t/ha yields as experienced by Manly Roger. This translates to as much as 67 percent efficiency of production based on the potential yield of Isabs variety of 2.3 t/ha.

Isabs was introduced in the Philippines in 2005 by the Isabela-based International Center for Research in the Semi-Arid Tropics. It was recently approved for commercial release by the National Seed Industry Council (NSIC) under the name NSIC Pnut 15 in 2009.

Ripple effect

With the success of the STBF on peanut, almost 200 corn farmers in the neighboring barangays signified their interest to adopt the demonstrated S&T interventions and to grow peanut in rotation with corn.

Due to the limitation of these farmers to put growing peanuts in their farm fields, Jones Mayor Hipolito Rapadoo promised from the Department of Agriculture-Cagayan Valley Integrated Agricultural Research Center (DA-CHARC) more than 3,000 kg of peanut seeds for the 200 farmers who attended these during the STBF field day in Jones. Thereafter, a peanut seed production training was immediately extended to the farmers by the STBF technical expert, from Mam Aquino of DA-CHARC.

Another significant effect of the STBF is the gradual planting of peanuts in rotation with corn in about 2,000 ha of newer land areas in Jones. A total of 172 cuts is farmers from 23 barangays in Jones have been expressing points. This support ing the need for production expansion and crop diversification in the said municipality.

Now, the same piece of land produces more and grows additional income to the farmers.

With the success of the STBF, it is hoped that more farmers will make money out of "mani" through the concerted effort of PCAARRD, DA-CHARC, and the support of the local government of Jones, Isabela. Marydel de los Reyes and Josefina Atienza, S&T Media Service

Machine for coco coir biologs developed

COIR fiber logs are biodegradable logs or biologs (decomposed ground covered husks pulp) which are tightly packed in tubular netting. They are 100 percent natural materials, excellent planting medium additives which add fertility to the soil after biodegradation, high tensile strength, high water absorbency, eco-friendly, and wildlife safe.

Coco coir biologs can be made in variety of lengths and densities to suit different applications. As the logs can absorb large amounts of water, the logs can be used to slow down the velocity of storm water runoff, thus stabilizing slopes. They are great for shoreline/river embankment stabilization and forest slope rehabilitation. It also provides bedding where the seedlings and/or cuttings are inserted into logs with sediment. As the coconut fiber logs biodegrade, the plants develop a well-established root system in the shoreline soil. Several logs can be tied in place and the logs are seeded in each basin protection, keeping unwanted pollutants from entering into sewer systems.

For maximum utilization of coco coir, Dr. SOKOC developed a manual machine for coco coir biologs that compresses coco fibers while encapsulating it in a geotextile net, the so-called coir fiber biologs. The machine measures 2000 mm x 1850 mm x 915 mm and capable of producing 30 units of coco fiber biologs per day even by a novice operator. The manufacturing cost of the machine is approximately P90,000.

The machine for coco coir biologs is a promising technology for coir fiber since the Philippines is among the top coconut-producing countries. With this machine, it will not only generate employment for coco processors but also increase the utilization of coconut coir for commercial purposes.

Marilyn Ramones, S&T Media Service

ING goes beyond building shelters

IN BAMBI, Tondo, home to more than 6,000 poor families, a blue miniature windmill of the ING Village stands out as a symbol of hope.

In 2000, when the concept of putting up homes for the needy was not as popular, ING Bank Manila teamed up with Habitat for Humanity Philippines and stepped up to the challenge, says Raymond Ong, assistant vice president for Human Resources at ING Bank Manila.

Through the combined efforts of volunteers and residents of Tondo, there are now 160 orange and blue houses in the village.

Building shelters, however, is only the first step in creating sustainable communities. In 2007, the bank also set up the ING Learning Center Tutorial Program in step with its parent company's "Thirsters for Children" program.

The tutorial program seeks to give advanced or supplemental education to the kids of ING Village. Today, around 130 kids benefit from the program.

"Studies have shown that third- and fourth-grade levels are very critical as that is usually the time when pupils drop out. So if we can just give them a little push past grade four, they'll have a greater chance of staying and hopefully moving on to high school," says Ong.

Other than a tutorial program, it's like running a school. We have Christmas parties, recognition days, and field trips. We even have our own version of a Heroes-Tenders' Association," he adds.

Rhea Jones, World Vision community development officer, has been overseeing the ING Learning Center for two years now.

She says that while the bank's schools are cost effective lessons, appeals to parents for encouragement and support, plus the program's progress, and occasionally attends to the concerns of unruly children.

"It's very challenging," she admits. "We started out with just two sessions a week, but we realized it was not creating enough impact. The lessons did not stick. So we decided to make it Mondays to Saturdays and increased it to four sessions a day. It's very taxing, but it's the only way."

Jones, who goes to the ING Learning Center four days a week, says the program is able to augment the education kids get from their school, where usually up to 50 students share a classroom.

"In school wala, nasabay yung sa sa papirmar. Dito, nakakakuha talaga sarosa ako dahil maaasikaso. 25 students per session. Di chair school, their time is wasted sa kids being unproductive. Dito, they get the attention they need as as only have a maximum of 25 students per session," she says.

Once a kid fails to show up in class, Jones says she immediately goes to the kid's home to talk to the parents, and ultimately asks for their cooperation.

The program also includes Parents' Effectiveness Sessions, held at least twice a month, where parents give their feedback on their kids' academic progress.

"It's always fulfilling when I see results," she says. "But more than the grades, I want them to realize that they can bring about change in their families. We really hope they learn to appreciate the value of education. We don't expect all of them to be rich as a result, but we hope they would persevere to get out of the shackles of poverty."

While World Vision handles the tutorial sessions on weekdays, ING Bank employee volunteers take over on Saturdays.

The steady stream of ING Bank volunteers includes Dino Cavinta, who transferred from being ING head of finance to simply "Teacher Dino" every Saturday.

With his own kids now in college, he says he's left with more time on his hands to teach Mathematics at the ING Learning Center.

"I remember a favorite student from last term. She wanted to become a flight attendant. I still write to her. I want her to have a an objective for her life. I'm sure many of those students will be back home this and then they'll bring their families and parents," says Cavinta, who is now in his fourth year of volunteer work.

Ong says being a volunteer is the corner has been the best investment he has made in his personal life.

"It's been very positive," he says. "I feel like I'm really making a difference. I'm no longer one of those people who just complain and complain without lifting a finger."

Inspired by the success of the ING Village in Tondo, ING Bank Manila plans to replicate the program in Cabanatuan, Laguna, a community composed of former Ormoc City survivors whose homes were damaged during Typhoon Ondoy.

The bank recently awarded P1.125 million in donation to Habitat for Humanity to celebrate its 10 years of commitment to the Philippines. It aims to "make a difference one home at a time," by conjunction with ADS-CDN Foundation, the ING Foundation will build an initial 25 homes, which eventually will be an ING Village with 100 homes.

ING, a global financial institution of Dutch origin, offers banking, investments, life insurance and retirement services to over 85 million private, corporate and institutional clients in more than 40 countries.

ING Bank Manila volunteers with the children of Bisaya, Tondo at the ING Learning Center

RAYMOND Ong, ING Bank Manila's assistant vice president for human resources, finds volunteerism to be the "best investment" he has made in his personal life.

Everybody's . . .

From page B1

ty fund at a reasonable price. Almost all our savings are for sharing. We're not conscious about making money. Of course, that's good, but we want our customers to be happy."

Sison adds, "It's people first, then profits follow."

To bolster the cheery bright ambience of their restaurants, Velut, who takes charge of the creative side also, chose the sunflower as motif on the brochure. Fresh sunflowers in the vases and multi-colored bottles of rice wallet and colorful typing in shades of red, orange, turquoise, commonly seen only during Lucban's Pahiyas festival, hang from the ceiling. The wood for the benches and tables come from the Antillopine which is native in Quezon.

Considering themselves quite blessed (and also friends joined them all these years), the Velut family helps several a women's crisis center and a home for the elderly in Quezon. Some children in Krizia, Manila, are also assisted through the group. Its aim with financial donations to some elementary for temporary homes. College-age children of employees receive partial or full scholarship.

The employee fund has grown to 230, especially with the opening of the two eatery branch on Timog Avenue, Quezon City in September this year. It also became a savings facility for employees and families, spacious rooms for live-in employees, laundry area and bathrooms. What started his employees' comfort by having air-conditioners installed in their dormitory.

As for Buddy's secret of success, Sison says, "We've not conscious how big we've grown because we enjoy what we're doing. We're thankful for those years, for being given so much so we can share with others."

The dropout with a doctorate

A LEADER'S WAY

Robin C. Maxwell

gained his diploma.

With a high school degree in hand, Bill Cosby hoped to attend college after his last year with the navy ended. His application impressed Temple University, and he gained admittance. Thanks to his exceptional achievement (Cosby could run a 10.2 second, 100-yard dash), he was awarded a track and field scholarship.

Although his tuition was paid for, Cosby took a job as a bartender to pay for his room and board. He set and became determined with customers who demanded to hear more of his jokes. As word spread about the comical bartender, Cosby began receiving opportunities to entertain audiences as a paid comedian.

As his popularity grew, Cosby faced a dilemma: should he stay in school or pursue a career in comedy? He agonized over the choice, but decided to drop out of school for the second time in his life. He quickly obtained fame, lining up performances across America in major cities, appearing on The Tonight Show, and recording a comedy album.

Bill Cosby's superstar jumped another level after he was cast in the espionage adventure, I Spy. As the show's co-star, he captured three consecutive Emmy Awards for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series. Yet for Cosby, fame was never the endgame. While he enjoyed making people laugh, he felt motivated by a deeper responsibility. In particular, he was burdened by the plight of children who were poorly educated. In trying to figure out how he could contribute to education in America, Cosby felt the need to increase his understanding of how kids learn. So, as a celebrity at his zenith, Bill Cosby went back to school. Bill Cosby never had to attend. Dr. Bill Cosby earned his master's degree and doctorate in education, armed with newfound knowledge Cosby leveraged his talent like never before. He starred in the educational programs Children's Theater (1972) and Electric Company (1971), hosted Picture Pages and Wake Up (CBS) and then, in the 1980s, produced and acted in one of the all-time great sitcoms, The Cosby Show.

As The Cosby Show made its run, Cosby expanded his repertoire by developing his skills as an author. His seminal yet poignant writing led to successful books on fatherhood, marriage, and childhood. Now in the twilight of his career, Cosby remains active, lobbying for educational reform and raising funds for educational charities.

Summary

The life story of Bill Cosby attests to the power of personal growth. Having neglected education early in life, in his 30s, Cosby dedicated himself to developing his personal, daring his high school degree put him back on track in life. Then, even after achieving stardom, Cosby felt compelled to sharpen his mind by going back to college. He didn't rest on his successes but kept pushing himself to grow. Later in life, he continued learning-gaining competence as a producer and author.

How does contemplating Bill Cosby's life impact you? How do you make a commitment to personal growth? Do you have a system to aid you in continual learning?

Attend the 53rd Developing The Leader 101for Biz workshop with Manuel certified facilitator Patricia Eng on Oct. 27-28 at the Ateneo de Manila Rockwell. Call Inquiry Leadership Consultancy at 687-2634/0917-8511115.Visit us at www.inquirerseminars.com.ph. Add us on Facebook.

Sowing compassion and entrepreneurship in Cebu

CEBU CITY—Sometimes, all it takes to get a mission accomplished is willingness. More people willing to care. More hearts willing to give. More hands willing to help. More feet willing to go the extra miles.

When Operation Blessing Foundation Philippines (OB) went to Cebu for a weeklong medical mission, with them is the burden to help the needy and the challenge of sowing seeds of compassion among Cebuanos' hearts.

The task at hand was not easy, but the teams inclusive of the locals made the team feel they were needed targets at all.

When two heads are better than one

For the first time, OB Manila and OB Davao combined their efforts in fulfilling the weeklong goal: reaching out to thousands of Cebuanos with the different services of Operation Blessing. Medical professionals and volunteers from both offices came together and maximized their expertise.

Operation Blessing Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Ron Ajoc Post-ma and shares how proud she is to see her two "Trials" working together.

For years, it has been her heart to open doors for OB in Cebu and the Visayas. When the opportunity finally came, there was nothing left to do but grab the chance and take the challenge.

"I'm so happy to see my two babies working together in the medical mission. This is not OB Manila nor OB Davao, but both moving to help the people here in Cebu. This is like a dream come true," Dr. Pascual tearfully shares.

It was a special team made up of unique personalities, each one with something new to offer, despite the differences. They were able to turn their weaknesses into strengths that benefited not only the whole team but also the people whom they were serving.

Heartfelt service, endless gratitude

For years, Operation Blessing's trademark has always been helping Filipinos in underserved areas, and Cebu is no exception.

Throughout the six days of the medical mission, not including the long drives to each location, OB went to hard-served barangays in Cebu to offer free medical, surgical, dental, and optical services.

Small-scale livelihood opportunities were also given to choose the beneficiaries' small businesses and bustling progress were also held for the children. Deep wells were installed and dedicated in areas where sources of potable water are often unavailable.

When heavenly Shepherd Ministries knew it was time to open their doors to serve the people in Cebu, they sought the support of OB's partners: local government units, local churches, Rotary Clubs of Alanten and Boga, Philippine Academy of Dermatologic Surgery Foundation, Inc. (PADSFI), Cebu 5th District Representative Gabriel Luis Quirante, Gov. Hilario Davide III, and Alangilanon families. Mitch Ala' Base Wing of the Philippine Air Force, Mergah Phar-maceutical, and many others.

More to be done in Cebu

At the end of the medical mission, everyone came home with smiles on their faces. The whole experience was exhausting yet definitely very rewarding. It was a mission accomplished. And for sure, it will not be the last. There's still places to do and the needs in Cebu has only just begun.

Your support and partnership with Operation Blessing would go a long way. Through your generous giving, more and more people in Cebu and the Visayas can be helped through OB's activities.

Spread the love and share your blessings by helping us put up an OB regional office in Cebu! Call Operation Blessing now at (02) 413-1163 in Manila or (082) 297-3080 in Davao and learn how you can help.

WITH his new reading glasses, Rodolfo can now face everyday school meaningful systems. Thanks to Operation Blessing, and Metrobank Foundation who generously sponsored the glasses.

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Kitchen kNight to the rescue of graveyard-shift employees

By Maricel O. Salazar

AS IF THE drastic change in body clock is not enough, graveyard shift employees working in business processing outsourcing (BPO) companies have to contend themselves with crackers and boring sandwiches during break time.

While munching on a pack of biscuits, Lujene Lim realized the absurdity of having to eat crackers after a hard night's work. Because she couldn't find a decent food delivery service (and equally decent food) at night, Lim decided enough was enough.

Out of her frustration, Kitchen kNight was born.

Lim conceived of the food delivery service idea in October 2009. "At that time, my salary was not enough for me to afford good food," she recalls.

Even if she had the money, Lim says the "popular" food delivery services just offered the "usual" menu. Most of them are also closed during the wee hours, Lim points out.

Last July 28, Kitchen kNight started delivering to offices and residences within the cities of Makati and Taguig.

Lim is also a career woman on the go and knows that many like her prefer to eat out or order food.

Setting up shop may be over for Lim since she has been a real estate broker and has been in the industry for five years now. Her job is demanding and so are her clients. "I'm on call more than eight hours a day," she says. "Clients are calling me at 7 a.m., 6 p.m., 9 p.m. but I'm not complaining."

Lim finished a degree in economics at the University of Santo Tomas and is taking up Masters in Applied Economics at the University of Asia and the Pacific. "I just have to finish my thesis," she says.

Kitchen kNight's dishes range from Japanese, Korean and Thai, which she confesses are her personal favorites.

"I wanted to offer something different because I wanted something different as well," Lim says. Different, according to Lim, means meals other than sandwiches, burgers, french fries, and the usual fast food.

More than the dismay of not having that tasty food choices at nighttime, Lim also wants to offer "healthier alternatives with the same convenience of a food delivery service." Kitchen kNight also wants customers to be fully satisfied with their meals.

Right after Lim goes home from her real estate job in Makati, she would head to her kitchen in Pateros Town, Makati, where, together with a chef, she would prepare the menus and ingredients while waiting for calls.

Lim says Kitchen kNight is open from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. It requires a minimum pur-

KITCHEN B2.1

LUJENE LIM

People, Events & Products

Email: inbisyo@inquirer.com.ph

Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc. named as MDG Warrior

PILIPINAS Shell Foundation Inc. (PSFI) receives recognition as one of the seven Philippines' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Warriors in a nationwide search for grassroots heroes and ordinary citizens who made a big difference in their community. Organized by Dr. Bobbie Abella-Bautista, Rotab Philippines, and the United Nations Millennium Campaign, the search is in line with the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The seven awardees were chosen for their selfless and dedicated service to others, to help our country achieve the MDGs. The MDGs are eight economic, time-bound, and specific targets anchored on eradicating extreme poverty by the year 2015. In 2000, 189 world leaders signed the Millennium Declaration during the United Nations Millennium Summit promising to achieve these eight goals.

The seven MDG Warriors represent the first seven MDGs. They were nurse Fr. Ben Beltran, end extreme poverty and hunger; Rey Bernardo, Ph.D., achieve universal education ; Dr. Melanie Sanchez and Patricia Sanchez, promote gender equality; Dr. Jean Tay, reduce child mortality; Ana Evangelista Swanepoel, improve maternal health; A Single Drop for Inés Wisse, ensure environmental sustainability; and Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc., combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc. (PSFI), the social arm of the Shell companies in the Philippines (Shell) was established to help uplift the quality of life of the people by initiating social development projects and programs of national and local scope. In 2000, PSFI implemented Bilusan Ligtas Motorista in Pulawan, Prevention of malaria incidence was given due attention with the distribution of insecticides, treated mosquito nets which is considered the most effective means of preventing transmission. Clean up drives were also undertaken to control the malaria menace.

Former SolP country chair and PSFI founding chair Cesar Buenaventura, PSFI executive director Edgar Seva Cruz, PSFI program manager Mavi Tradava, Sustainable Development manager Ronald Suarez and volunteers and Corporate Communications manager Jaclaire Simbulan received the award in a ceremony held on Sept. 18, at Eastwood Mall, Libis, Quezon City.

With only five years left to end poverty and improve the lives of the poorest of the poor, the United Nations enjoins all citizens to be part of the movement and make a difference.

ABOITIZ FOUNDATION TURNS OVER P1.53 M TO PBSP

The Aboitiz Foundation recently turned over P1.53 million to the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), representing contributions for fiscal year 2009-2010 of Aboitiz companies that are PBSP members. Contributions from Aboitiz and Company, Visayan Light and Power Corp., Subic's Light and Power Company, Pilmico Foods Corp. and Aboitiz Jebsen Bulk Transport Corp. received for the biggest donations to PBSP outside of Manila. Aboitiz Foundation president Jon Ramon Aboitiz handed the commercial check to PBSP chair Manny Pangilinan in a simple ceremony held at the Manila office in Makati City. Also present were Aboitiz Foundation chair Sabin Aboitiz and EVP-managing trustee Jimmy Cerdo, Pilmico Foods plant Antonio Moraza, PBSP executive director Rafael Lopa and chief executive officer Klaus Duval, and PLDT-Smart Foundation president Napoleon Nazareno. "Aboitiz helps PBSP achieve its goals of nation-building through its various projects nationwide. Due to the commitment that we give being one of PBSP's founding members," said Jon Ramon Aboitiz. "The PBSP member-companies' contributions are used to attract larger grants and donations so that PBSP can increase its reach and impact. This year, PBSP will start its eighth five-year plan for poverty reduction. The programs will integrate disaster risk mitigation and ecological protection and ensure relevance in the rapidly changing environment," said Pangilinan.

Century Park Hotel holds Oktoberfest

THE CENTURY Park Hotel celebrated Oktoberfest with a Beer and Sausage Festival. At the top of the Century Hotel at the 19th floor offered special promotions. At the Atrium Lounge, at the lower lobby, extended the daily offering from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Every Drink All You Can on local beers for only P 495+ and imported beer selection for P 695+ per person. Complement your beer with our Bratwurst offering for just P 210+ per order. For reservations, call 528-2467. Email us at informationfive@centurypark.com.ph or call 528-0888 for reservations or inquiries.

GIFTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Jon S. Yoon, president of La Salle Greenhills, turned over two electric scooters to the community of Lumbia, Cagayan de Oro. It continues to demonstrate a commitment to the community in San Pedro, Laguna into a place that adheres to sustainable development. A man who believes that sustainability is the key to the future, Yoon also sees inspiring the residents of La Mesa eco-park-pagoyo to their way. In photo are Yoon (middle) and Ian Pedro Mayor Dalisi Galasao (right).

Spotlight on Filipino Food Heritage at SM

THIS OCTOBER, SM Supermall's Yes Tourism! Committee sets the spotlight on Philippine Cuisine—one of the many facets of our rich heritage which shines both the uniqueness and richness of our culture through Kitchen Recipes from the Heart . The SM Supermall's Tourism Committee, headed by GRENDA ANG for operations, Steven Tan, strives to promote an increased awareness and appreciation for Filipino food by encouraging Southtown's shoppers and residents to draw out each region's most popular or best-remembered dishes from the kitchens of families that have influenced their "second" heirloom recipes. Kitchen Recipes from the Heart is a culinary festival that is set to launch simultaneously on Oct. 15 at SM Mall of Asia, SM City North EDSA, and SM Megamall. Featured guests include personalities such as: Ricky Rivera, co-author of the award-winning book "Memories of Philippine Kitchens" which describes the evolving of different traditions with those of Chinese, Spanish, and American cuisines. For this project, she partners with Chef Rodel Dagohoy, executive chef of Manila Peninsula, and director for food photography for over 40 cookbooks published by Tess Librodes. Together they will be featured at the Main Atrium of SM Mall of Asia. For SM City North EDSA, we have invited Nancy Reyes Lumen, renowned food writer, television host, radio personality, and author of several cookbooks dedicated to raising the status of the home cook and encouraging environmentally friendly, low-waste cooking processes. Chef Rodel Dagohoy, former executive chef of Makiamong during the Arroyo administration, and currently the executive chef of Tad Hinalad and will be the guest chef for SM Megamall. On Oct. 17, and on October 24, the rest of the SM Supermalls nationwide will complete this culinary ride with a similar gastronomic celebrations of regional flavors held either in the Event Center or in the Food Court of their respective malls. Featured chefs from the Institute of Culinary Arts & Food Science or ICF, a few celebrities, culinary experts and enthusiasts from the various regions' famous restaurants will grace the occasion, sharing their favorite treasured recipes to the audience.

National Champions

M. LHUILLIER Kendra Padulo Cebu Billiss scored the first ever four-set round of the Philippines' (TDP) championship trophy, in a deciding Game 5 match against MinDr Meteors at a full-packed Cebu Coliseum. The team led its coach Rod "Yayoy" Accosta, displayed the heart of a champion, withstanding a highly physical and emotional encounter, and eventually sealing the historic victory with a final score of 15-13. The TDP national champions were fully supported by team owner Michel Lhuillier, his son Michael, daughter-in-law Joanna and grandson Michael James.

Hallmark Music and Memories

BALLIMORE is putting music to the proceedings with Hallmark Music and Memories Chorale Competition. Recognized musical extravaganza of 2010 as choirs groups from private and public high schools in NCR and Luzon compete for P50,000 cash. The qualifier schedule and fierce fiesta are Robinsons Place Manila, Nov. 12, Robinsons Place Metro East, Nov. 19, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Nov. 26, Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, Dec. 3. Deadline for submission of entries is on Nov. 5. For further inquiries, contact Filstar Distributors Corp. at 636-3051 local 113 or 109 or visit www.filstar.com.ph or at any National Book Store branch to get a copy of the application form and mechanics. This event is to be taught to you by Filstar Distributors Corporation, in partnership with Robinsons Malls and National Book Store, and the official media partner, Jam 88.3.

Updates, new finds all under one Sun

PURSUANT to its aspiration of empowering the youth to lead hungry, spirited lives, Sun Cellular partnered with a University of the Philippines youth organization as three telecommunications partner for the first semester of school year 2010-2011. UP Diliman's Junior Marketing Association, a community-wide non-stock student organization, has over 200 bona fide members actively participating in its endeavors and projects.

Sun Cellular, source of UP Jmen's extensive litany of activities, assisted the organization to avail the Sun Message Cast, an innovation that allows a broadcast group to keep in touch with each other through one messages. UP JMAs Chairperson, Jean Garcia, can easily inform all members of the most recent announcements, reminders, and meetings that need to be known to all.

With Sun Message Cast, sending messages to all group members is a breeze. Sun Message Cast members on Administrator creating the content using the Message Cast web interface or Sun/Sun companion. The message will then be sent afterwards to the Message Cast server managed by the Sun Cellular network, that in turn, sends the target recipients SMS to their respective mobile handsets, like Cleo Cheng, relaying to them the important tasks of the day.

For more information on Sun Cellular and its products and services, visit www.sunCellular.com.ph or call the Sun Hotline 200 through your mobile phone. View their tweets at www.twitter.com/sunCellularInfo and join in the fun!

EFFIE NAMAS US STUDY TOUR

The Effie Namas (EIBI) recognition is given to a three-week study tour to the United States last June. A team of eight students attended case classes at the Seattle University in Seattle, where they had the chance to dance along with professional dancers from the school's company. The group then proceeded to San Francisco where they stayed at the residence of Consul General Mercedes Puyat and attended classes at the Nihonmachi Little School for the Performing Arts and City Hall. School of San Francisco. The students also visited the headquarters of the Philippine Community Center in Seattle and of the Intercontinental Hotel in Saint Helena for the Philippine Independence Day celebration. Both performances were highly praised by the audience. The exposure to different leading styles has raised the quality of ballet education for PAP's students. This is the second time the school has embarked on a study tour to the US, the first one is in New York and Washington last year, and is looking last summer.

25TH ANNIV OF THE KINGDOM OF JESUS CHRIST

Flags are carried into the Jesus Christ Gathering as representatives from the United States of America, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Cambodia, Portugal, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and 100 others entered the International Kingdom Leader's Convention in the Jesus Christ Command in the New Manila area. Eleven City. The Convention is part

of the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ/Ate Basin Above Every Name under the leadership of Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy.

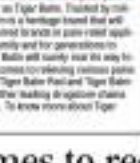
SEC's new accounting rules for corporations

THE SEC-SA for Global Best Practices (www.cpbs.org) telephone 892-7188 or 892-7189 will be hosting the two-part one-day CPE accredited seminar titled, "New Accounting Rules for SMEs Effective January 2010" on Oct. 29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Cebu Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. As of January 2010, the Securities and Exchange Commission had mandated SME corporations with assets of P5 million to P200 million and Subsidiaries of P5 million up to P100 million to adopt the New Accounting and Financial Reporting Rules. This special event will feature Atty. Ms. Grecia Cuesta-Diaz, CPA, the General Accountant of the Securities and Exchange Commission. She offers to discuss and review the financial reports of SME corporations to ensure compliance to the new accounting rules required by the SEC. Awarded by the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) as the "Young Achiever in Government Service," Diaz will discuss the official interpretation and best practices implementation of the new accounting rules. Learn all about the mandate's practical applications and how to implement these new regulations properly. Attend this limited seats only event. Avail of the early bird rate of P2,500 per participant. Interested participants may call program leader Ivy Enriquez or email ivy@cpbs.org. Pre-registration is required.

ProductFiles

The legend in a jar

OVER a hundred years ago in China, an old court herbalist by the name of Au Chu Kin formulated a special ointment to relieve and soothe the body aches, exclusively made of his imperial users. After being his token from the royal palace in order to start anew in a place called Benna, Au Chu Kin further refined the exquisite balm with his love scent at his humble medicine shop. Made from unique herb ingredients, this remedy would be the medicine of choice of royalty and other for his clan but to the rest of the world.



Tried, tested and trusted by generations of users, the tropical pain reliever is what the world knows today as Tiger Balm. Trusted by millions of people worldwide, Tiger Balm's a heritage brand that will continue on as one of the most preferred brands in pain relief application targeted for today's Filipino family and for generations to come. In this issue of the Tiger Balm will surely rise its way to millions of Filipinos' hearts when it comes to relieving muscle pains and aches and other body ailments. Tiger Balm Red and Tiger Balm White are available at Mercury and other leading drugstore chains and major supermarkets nationwide. To know more about Tiger Balm, visit www.tigerbalm.com.

DMCI Homes to redevelop new property in Quezon City

VISAYAS Avenue, Quezon City will soon be refashioned into a charming mixed-type community of high-rise and townhouse condominium towers. DMCI Homes, today's leading builder-developer of quality-crafted residences, will soon start the construction works on site for a project called Stella Place.

Reynaldo Salazar, DMCI Homes director for Business Development, said that as a developer, it is always a challenge for the company to envision new products out of its own industrial sites. They initially accomplished this in 2006 when they turned the former Stella warehouse into the condominium-style residential resort Rizo Gardens in Parañaque City.

"There are a lot more areas in Metro Manila which are ready for rehabilitation and redevelopment, notably the factories and warehouses. For a developer, it is always a fulfillment to convert these areas into a thriving community with lots of greens and spaces, especially for the residents who expect and deserve to live in the kind of environment," Salazar said.

The ideal location of Stella Place near Elliptical Road also attracted DMCI Homes to pursue its acquisition. The developer may only be more than 10 years old in the industry, but its growing land bank is proof of its consistent progress, achieved through a well-selected portfolio of projects all over Metro Manila.

Backed by its mother company DMCI has a proven track record of more than 33 years in the construction industry. The same business model will be used for Stella Place, which will be composed of a 15-storey tower and two medium-rise buildings that will offer medium-density living propositions—a trademark DMCI Homes advantage.

Prime-type amenities, a themed architectural design, first-rate building features, exclusivity and security, plus a professional property management team, will likewise be delivered in the project.

DMCI Homes is the country's premier triple A builder-developer that brings acclaimed, themed communities within reach of urban families who crave for well-located residential options, but still aspire to achieve a comfortable, satisfying quality of life proximate to their place of interest. For inquiries, please call 224-8000 or visit the website www.dmcihomes.com.

The mind of young marketers

THE FOURS: Market Masters awards (YMMA) showcases the best among young marketing practitioners whose passion for marketing has changed the way we see their brands.

But for Francis Flores, head of marketing of Greenwich Pizza Corporation, and Lorraine "Lorsi" Villanueva of Glaxo SmithKline Philippines, the honor of being declared marketing royalties last year did not come on a silver platter. Everything is a product of hard work, coupled with foresight and a good feel of what the consumers want.

FLORES and Villanueva

Lord of pizzas

Having bagged the YMMA honor last year in the "change" **Year for Flores, Greenwich's** head of marketing.

With his extensive Asia-Pacific marketing experience in a multinational firm, Flores took the **helm of the Pinoy pizza company** three years ago and turned the **pizza brand around...a spin that** smashed competition and earned **several spots among favorite** quick service restaurants (QSRs) next to Jollibee.

Greenwich gained pizza supremacy via successful product **launches...the Greenwich Grec**ian Pizza, Strictly Cheese "Sobrang Cheesy" Pizza, and Lasagna Supreme to launch. **These changed consumer** sales growth. A robust 60 percent to total pizza sales and 40 percent to the pasta category. Based on survey, Greenwich is now the **Philippines' best-tasting pizza**, most favorite pizza chain, and it has 21st-brand strength. The company, Flores says, currently enjoyed a very comfortable 50 percent market share.

For Flores, being in love with **the job is important.** He confesses that the spirit of fun and **friendship remains not only from** its TV ads starring actor John Lloyd Cruz and his barkada, but also among members of his 28-man marketing team.

"I have always been very competitive. I have consistently **set high standards for myself.** To succeed, one must have the passion for excellence and strive for greatness as even if you don't reach your goal you are still very good. I hate losing," admits the 32-year-old Flores, who earned a business degree from UP and was a Nissy Aquino-Foundation scholar.

The YMMA is an affirmation of Flores' superior marketing proficiency as he is now also marketing head of Chowking. Greenwich's sister company. He **is training his sight on turning** Chowking into a formidable brand, starting with the "Tikman ang Tsampoy" campaign that is currently creating waves.

"It has become my personal purpose to market only Filipino brands" enthuses Flores.

The queen of vaccine

GSK's 10-year Villanueva basks in Pinoy pride, not only because the business model she has created is now being replicated in her company's foreign divisions, but more notably because it raised awareness on cervical cancer among Filipinas.

Cervical cancer, a disease caused by a virus that may infect up to 60 percent of women, is **least cancer in their lifetime, takes a** toll on the lives of at least 7,000 Filipino women every year. Half of those who carry the disease do not survive. And unlike breast cancer, the disease does not exhibit any visible symptoms.

Educating women about cervical cancer was a challenge, according to Villanueva. Based on research, only one in 10 women in society where their access to. More daunting is the fact that most Filipinos believe they are invincible and put preventive medicine low to their list of priorities. There was one other major dilemma: The vaccine was very expensive.

"That time, one dose cost P6,000. Within six months three shots are required. With that pricing level, the advocacy would not be able to make a dent in the incidence of cervical cancer as we had to ensure up with a new pricing compliant. It was not only about reducing prices but was more about making medicines more affordable," explains Villanueva who was able to convince the GSK Asia Pacific head quarters to reduce prices by at least 60 per cent. The reduction made them and the biggest the pharmaceutical giant had implemented.

Her only bar pessimism about cervical cancer prevention improved dramatically it has also charted an exceptional eight-fold jump in volume for GSK's vaccine. Last year it dragged a huge 70 percent in market share.

"Vaccines are mostly administered by pediatricians but the risk for cervical cancer is more prevalent among older women. So we reached out to doctors that women frequently visit, like obstetricians-gynecologists who are considered the authority in women's health," says Villanueva. GSK's marketing manager for vaccines and YMMA honoree for advocacy marketing.

Villanueva believes believed that the new pricing scheme tied to be paired with a marketing strategy to sustain its impact.

Nominations for Young Market Masters Awards 2010, an annual event and advocacy summit by Mansmith and Fielder, Inc. is now open until Oct. 31. Application forms are available at www.youngmarketmasters.com. For inquiries e-mail info@youngmarketmasters.com.

Kitchen kNight to the rescue . . .

From page B1-1

share of 37000 per delivery and it has two riders.

The Kitchen kNight menu includes Pork Bulgogi, Korean Beef Stew, Yakiniku, Beef Teriyaki, Pork Curry, Spicy Seafood Basil and more. The **bestsellers** are still all-time Filipino meals such as Beef Caldereta, Pork Belly Sisig a la Pobre, and Chicken Adobo. Prices range from P75 to P90.

Lito realizes that budget is a **an. I consideration for her pup**ils customers as she made her meals affordable.

Kitchen kNight gets its raw meats from a supplier and goes all the way to Masinloc, Manila, for spices. "Since we serve some **national dishes, we get the** spices and ingredients from Japanese and Korean specialty stores," says Lito, who is a licensed real estate broker.

Kitchen kNight also has special meals for vegetarians such as Yasai Itame (stir-fried vegetables) and vegetable omelets. "We also cook dishes for special requests, and especially for customers with gentler vegetables instead of rice or in replacement of rice," Lito says.

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SANTOS Claire and her line of paper roses

SMART employees (from Left) Belle Edaña, Nina Bacuno, and Phalmini Aljas enjoy their paper flowers made of recycled Smart flyers.

How this phone firm's rubbish did not go to waste

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—Even a telecommunication giant like Smart Communications can generate **rubbish despite its valuable role** in the crusade for a paperless global economy.

Its bare direct Smart subscribers would toss out up folded into stylish dress, which men and women of Barangay Irisan Village could produce each year.

Lynne Billgrave, an assistant professor of the Ateneo College of Arts and Design who is affiliated with the University of the Philippines Baguio's Cordillera Studies Center, has been exploring the knack of housewives in Baguio and

SAMPLES of Smart's posters turned into teal wine chandelier

Crash courses in marketing allow community to gain social networking access

Manila who have ingenuity a trader in carrying bags and footwear using discarded juice boxes or plastic juice containers.

Milgram's doctoral work on **entrepreneurs in Metro Manila de**calls how neighborhood women with no access to mainstream

One of country's HMO reveals trade secrets

By Jay A. Gozar
Contributor

INTELLICARE IS one of the leaders in the health maintenance organizations (HMOs) industry with its over 1,000 corporate accounts composed of leading companies in every sector. It has total membership of almost 600,000 and a network of more than 11,000 of the country's well-known physicians and medical specialists, and almost 900 reputable hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centers and other first-class medical institutions.

The company now also has a vast asset base expanding to over P3 billion, a dynamic workforce of nearly 900, and a growing financial muscle of over P200 million in stockholders' equity from only P1.9 million in 1995.

These numbers speak of economies of scale that IntelliCare has amazingly attained in just a little over a decade, and still counting, fast.

For all these eyewhistle feats, its chair and president, Hilario Antonio III, often has a lot of time boasting to do, especially in to IntelliCare's shareholders in the company's forthcoming 15th anniversary in November this year.

This early, though, Silos has answered to shed light on the company's stunning but pious early surprising success.

"Our success is remarkable

SILOS

given the odds we had to battle, but clearly and steadily we've overcome them and grown at a pace set finally brought possible," Silos noted.

"We attribute that growth primarily to our focus on customers and the quality of our service, as attested to by a 90 percent retention rate of business, with new sales growing at no less than 30 percent on average per annum. This translated to a membership expansion from an initial base of 3,000 to 1996 to almost 600,000 this year," Silos adds.

That period of growth also covered certain paradigm shifts in the HMO market, which could be attributed to IntelliCare, partly but enormously.

"One is the dramatic growth of TPA (Third Party Administrators) for medical benefits. This component of the HMO business was insignificant 15 years ago. But in addition, recognizing in (1996) huge potential, shifted marketing focus from the regular (HMO) product. Today, TPA business for healthcare covers 40 percent of its membership base – the biggest piece in the HMO industry with that of almost other HMOs having only 15 percent or less of their total business," Silos explains.

Under the TPA program, corporations "contribute on behalf of their enrolled members a fixed amount to a "Health Fund," which is administered and exclusively used by IntelliCare to pay for the healthcare services and benefits that clients have availed themselves of. Under this arrangement, therefore, clients only pay for the amount actually utilized.

"The Health Fund is then replenished regularly by clients to keep it within the pre-agreed amount, usually three months worth of utilization rates. IntelliCare charges against the fund to administer/service and network access fees and other medical collectibles on services benefits not covered by or in excess of the pre-agreed limits.

Open warranty date of this TPA health plan contract, the remaining balance of the fund is remitted back in clients, net of all charges.

Thus, the TPA program enables clients of financial purposes. Because instead of paying a fixed periodic premium, clients pay for only what has been actually utilized by their employees. The clients are also able to enjoy IntelliCare's volume discounts on medical charges in excess of its large collective base of enrolled members. But over and above these benefits, the clients are allowed equal access to IntelliCare's top tier, countrywide infrastructure for an effective and efficient claims delivery at no extra cost.

On the other hand, IntelliCare's HMO Benefit Program covers annual physical exam (APE), preventive and out-patient medical services, in-patient hospitalization, and maternity care.

Together, IntelliCare's HMO Benefit Program, TPA and other services constitute a comprehensive coverage of clients' various healthcare requirements.

"The holistic approach to healthcare management is the value that we always aspire to create. This covers preventive, treatment (curative), and management. Finally, managing diverse of UB-based Global Rota, which publishes a daily sea congestion index.

But failure to spend now may mean missing the China boom.

Chinese coal consumption is expected to soar to 2.7 billion tons in 2015 from 1.8 billion tons last year, while steel output is seen climbing to 880 million tons from 568 million tons in the same period, according to government estimates.

Australia's Newcastle, whose customers include mining giants BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto, exemplifies the difficulties commodity exporters have also deciding how much they can realistically dig out in a year.

Australia last month raised its forecast for coal shipments in 2011 by nearly 7 percent, to 238 million tons, but analysts consider this improbable.

"They are being wildly optimistic. I would have thousands of boats entrances," said Mark Pervan, head of commodity research at ANZ National Bank.

Reuters

Congested Asia ports struggle to satisfy China

SINGAPORE—Australia, India and Indonesia are under the gun to expand port capacity as exporters can rush to cash in on China's commodities boom or face losing billions of dollars in business to other markets.

China, already the top iron ore importer and coal user, is expected to consume even greater amounts of commodities over the next few years to help fuel the rapid growth of the world's second largest economy.

But major congestion at ports from Newcastle and Broadip to Bellingham could force the world's more populous country to turn to import from supplies in Europe, Africa, the United States and Canada, which don't have the same low demand.

"It seems that (Asia Pacific) port capacity is constantly running behind actual demand," said Hiran Wijesinha, chief executive of Hong Kong-based dry bulk shipping firm Pacific Basin, one of Asia's biggest small-sized shipowners.

"This is because many ports are owned by governments and therefore the process is much longer than it would be if they were government," he added.

Port congestion cost up around 10 percent of the world's dry bulk fleet, analysts said.

"It really comes down to financing. If they can sort themselves out, then congestion will decrease," said Bjorn Bolthius, analyst with shipbroker BS Pacific Shipbrok.

A long parade of more than 60 ships queues daily at Australia's Newcastle, the world's busiest coal terminal, and waits an average of two weeks to load its cargo due to rail and other bottlenecks between the mines and the port.

In Indonesia, low water levels in the key Barito river during the dry season can limit coal barge trips to offshore loading facilities, causing demurrage costs, fees of Hong Kong-based dry bulk shipping firm Pacific Basin, one of Asia's biggest small-sized shipowners.

And in India, trade has been limited because bulk of its ports are too small to take 120,000-ton cape vessels, most common-

ly used for long-haul dry bulk shipments from key iron ore ports such as Paradip on the southeast coast.

In response, governments, port companies and port operators have promised to spend billions of dollars to build new terminals, lay more rail tracks and upgrade cargo handling facilities.

Australia has earmarked more than $60 billion for port and transport projects, while India aims to spend $500 billion and Indonesia $140 billion in coastal roads, railways and harbors over the next five years.

But with the global economic recovery still in a fragile state, many planned funding will be delivered as promised.

Countries are already revising that India may miss its 2012 investment target because of bureaucratic hurdles.

"It's difficult for government decisions to happen because they easily run off the top and use their own supplies, leaving countries with a huge bill to pay without the returns," said Si-

BDO donates Bulacan property to storm victims

BDO UNIBANK, through the BDO Foundation, donated two parcels of land measuring 8,000 square meters to the municipality of Baliuag after the bank decided to forego its sale to private developers and instead, offered it as a resettlement site for typhoon victims in the municipality and those living in the danger zones along the Angat river.

Town Mayor Ramon Estrella said the "donation will greatly benefit families in Barangay Hinukay" as well as residents of other communities settled the along the river.

However, "much work is still needed to resettle more informal settlers living along the river and I hope more Good Samaritans like the BDO will come to our help," Estrella said.

The project is being undertaken in partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through the Philippine Red Cross.

The local Red Cross hopes to fund the construction of 100 transitory houses within the municipality of Baliuag. The local government will undertake site development and planning while the Couples for Christ Answering the Cry of the Poor Talents Foundation will provide values formation for the beneficiaries.

During the recent signing ceremony of the deed of Donation and Memorandum of Agreement on Usufruct, BDO chair Teresita Sy-Coson reiterated the bank's role in the recovery and rehabilitation phase of last year's disasters after also being actively involved in relief operations.

Google impresses Wall Street with display ad growth

SF LIGHT since brokerages raised their price targets on Google Inc. Friday, a day after the Web search engine leader showed investors with its third-quarter results and unveiled the strength of its display advertising and mobile segments.

"Consistent with forming revenues, there is a $4.5 billion in non-search revenue run rate, supporting diversification is better than many thought and investments are driving growth," Rolfe Hewell Lynch analyst Justin Post wrote in a note to clients.

Investors had feared that Google, seeking new sources of growth, was spending too heavily on initiatives such as its Android mobile software, acquisitions and renewable energy projects with uncertain outcomes.

But Google said its mobile and display advertising operations generated annualized revenue run rates of more than $1 billion and $2.5 billion, respectively...underscoring the success of investments into smartphones and online projects.

"Going forward, we think mass search will yield a better user experience which will likely result in market share gains ... new mobile devices will likely increase mobile search share," J.P. Morgan Securities and set forth clear views."

"The acceleration in key revenue growth metrics including the core search engine business, and increased transparency on mobile and display segments will help Google drive a higher valuation, analysts said.

Google shares were up about 9 percent at $569.82 in trading before the bell on Friday. They closed at $543.01 Thursday on Nasdaq.

Reuters

How this phone firm's rubbish . . .

Viewpage B3-1

business connections were able to fulfill the demands of international markets while retaining the integrity of hand design and fabric."

Belle Echera, Smart area manager says the company recognized the same spirit in the Inchite Village workers here, who folded old company posters, glossy flyers, and high-end brochures into table vases shaped into swans, or a platter of paper flowers.

Idiots says they held a contest in the village to determine the sort of creativity their rubbish can help inspire before they start unloading a worthwhile prize: a 12 Bugsit village who produce recycled items.

"Smart having theme campaigning among sugo gamit na kaha kaya nakakuha ng kaya kaya ay nakapag-isip na gumagawa ng mga pamagawang kanugnay ng mga cards in. Nakaka-pagbigay ng mga cards in. Nakaka-pagbigay ng mga cards in. Nakaka-pagbig

Scented venture for Christmas

WITH CHRISTMAS just around the corner, take advantage of the season with a business opportunity to smell sweet. Watsons, a brand in the personal care industry offers a distributorship package that's affordable, with a good variety of quality fragrance and personal care products that top storeys right for.

Jo Mari Quilantan, Watsons Manila general manager says, "Our franchise plans are on track with people realizing that entrepreneurship is changing a not exclusive to hotel. A Watsons franchise offers convenience and

SCENTILA blends fragrances and personal care products

shelf-stable products that are considered must haves, year-round".

Not only are we a Christmas store, but we are an all occasion store." The product mix covers an assortment of fragrances made from the finest European oils, personal care products that make for blissful gifts of wellness, and aromatherapy massage oils for stressful days. "We are a green company as well", adds Quilantan," so all our products which are natural, safe...and soothing to our customers, help protect the environment. ...So please expect more fascinating practices through which we are able to carry out this advocacy."

In response to numerous queries for a smaller business package, Watsons & Blends now offers a distributorship package, starting out with an investment of P50,000, one can put up his own Watsons & Blends business. With personal care a priority for everyone, going into business during the peak season makes sense ... and profit handsome. Watsons & Blends fragrances make one smell and feel special. Lotions, body and hand washes, and moisturizers pamper and restore the skin to its natural softness. The aromatherapy line makes the day calm and relaxing. For the holidays, Watsons & Blends offers gift packs that make for ideal corporate and personal giveaways. These are available in leading malls and personal care outlets. Who wouldn't want to receive these cool gifts of total well-being !

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Asia CEO awards make a strong case for RP as a business destination

IN THE information age, proponents of Pinoy talent in the business arena are finding out that the best way to promote the country's global Filipino is by showcasing them hand-in-hand evidence and case studies of local excellence.

Because Google and similar web-based technologies have allowed anyone and everyone to become his own business analyst, obvious self-promotion no longer works. Leaders of the BPO sector including the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP) and communities of multinational and leading Philippine firms found this out as they were primed the growth of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector spearheaded by BPOs earlier in the decade, according to Richard Mills, head of Chalre Associates. Chalre is focused on recruiting CEOs and other top talents for multinationals in Asia.

The International ICT Awards dreamed by BPAP and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, then headed by Mills, provided credible evidence of outstanding performance among BPOs in the Philippines. Today the ICT sector leads the growth of the Philippine economy and the ICT Awards have subsequently become so instrumental to the BPO landscape.

Through the Asia CEO Forum, the largest assembly gathering in the country of top executives of leading multinational and Philippine companies, MNCs and other business leaders went to repeat history by coming up with a new set of awards for Philippine business in general. The Asia CEO Awards identifies and

> Members of the Judging Committee will accept nominations only up to Oct. 22

recognizes outstanding leadership of individuals and organizations that have contributed toward making the Philippines a more attractive global business destination.

On the Nov. 11 Asia CEO Awards night, individuals and organizations will be recognized in eight categories. These categories include the Executive Leadership Team of the Year, Entrepreneurial Leadership Team of the Year, Non-Profit Leadership Team of the Year, Global Filipino Executive of the Year, ICT Leadership Team of the Year, Technology Leadership Team of the Year, and Expatriate Executive of the Year. The latter is an award being sponsored by global real estate services firm Jones Lang LaSalle Levehka. Other companies sponsoring the awards are global accounting firm KPMG and software solutions provider SunGard Asiatics.

Members of the Judging Committee will accept nominations only up to Oct. 22. Members include economist Dr. Bernie Villegas, former president of the American Chamber of Commerce Dan Pelbam, president of the Korean Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines Edward Chungo, former president of the Asian Institute of Management Francis Estrada, founder and executive director of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Henry Schumacher, vice president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nobuo Fujii and governor of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Richard Mills.

Mills notes that managers in the Asia region are currently open-minded about where they can setup businesses in the region. "The companies for China and India seems to have subsided. Other countries in Asia find some more very adventurous global firms have experience personal and economic difficulties. We have a narrow window of time to make a strong case for the Philippines."

Fernando Cantos, chair of Jones Lang LaSalle Levehka, which surveys the real estate needs of many multinational businesses coming to the Philippines, points out that the English communication skills of Filipino managers and employees and their interpersonal relations are among the highest assets of the country. Multinationals are also attracted to the large population of the Philippines, which represents a sizable potential market for these firms that no longer find growth prospects in the US and Europe.

Nominees of deserving companies and teams need not be members of the Asia CEO Forum. Interested parties may visit www.asiaceoforum.com for more details and e-mail nominations up to Oct. 22 to nominations@asia-ceo.org.

Eurobest 2010 introduces the future creative leaders program

EUROBEST, Europe's premier creative advertising and communications festival, which takes place in Hamburg in December, is joining forces with the Berlin School of Creative Leadership to launch a brand-new venture called The Eurobest Future Creative Leaders Program (EFCLP), an intensive four-day training initiative designed for those with high potential but, on already-in, leadership positions.

Taking place in Hamburg, Dec. 3-8, during the first two days, participants will engage in intensive coursework and training offered by the Berlin School, which has built a global reputation with its innovative Executive MBA to create inspirational executives in their organizations. Once the Festival is underway the program will continue with bespoke sessions, speeches and lectures guided by the Berlin School faculty as well as accessing Eurobest's full array of workshops and sessions featuring cutting-edge industry thinkers.

"Future creative leaders are not born but made, and most often self-made through vision, analysis, motivation and interpretation," says Michael Conrad, President of the Berlin School of Creative Leadership. "In this time of growing challenges and continuing future strategy, leaders must be increasingly be able to communicate and manage change successfully. This intense programme will provide participants with concrete steps for advancing creative excellence in 2011."

Philip Thomas, CEO of Cannes Lions, organizers of Eurobest, said: "Eurobest and the Berlin School of Creative Leadership are committed to raising the global standard in leadership education for the creative communication and media industries. Building on the great success of the inaugural Cannes Creative Leaders Programme, we are delighted to be teaming up again to launch the Eurobest Future Creative Leaders Programme, offering a unique and rich four-day training course to help the development of the careers of those participating."

For more information on The Eurobest Future Creative Leaders Programme please visit: http://www.eurobest.com/about_us/future_leaders.cfm or http://www.berlin-school.com/programs/open-enrollment-programs/eurobest-future-creative-leaders-program/ alternatively, contact Patricia Iglesias at p.iglesias@berlin-school.com.

About the Eurobest Advertising Festival

Launched in 1988, Eurobest is Europe's leading annual awards competition for creative excellence in the categories of Film, Print, Outdoor, Radio, Interactive, Mobile, Media, Direct, Sales Promotion, Design, Craft, PR and Integrated Advertising. The awards, which are judged by Europe's top creatives, form part of a two-day Festival themed to identify and engage specific topics that are relevant to the European market. Launched in 2008, the Festival has been held in Stockholm and Amsterdam. Organized by the same team behind the Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival, the Dubai Lynx International Advertising Festival and Spikes Asia, the Eurobest Advertising Festival is a yearly European event.

About The Berlin School of Creative Leadership

The Berlin School of Creative Leadership is an independent non-profit institute established to provide innovative leadership education to the creative industries. At the heart of the Berlin School lies it's part-time global executive MBA in Creative Leadership program that is designed to turn great creatives into great creative leaders. To date close to 500 executives from over 25 countries around the world have participated or graduated from the EMBA program. The Berlin School is affiliated with Steinbeis University Berlin and the Art Directors Club Germany and cooperates with DGA Academies School of Business and Financial Management, Tokyo. In addition to its EMBA program it also offers customized and open executive leadership training programs. For more info please visit www.berlin-school.com.

Breathing spaces in today's vertical communities

AS METRO Manila and other urban centers become more congested, the only way to go is to build up. In the center cities, as the lack of available land space grows, developers now face the dilemma of providing comfortable living spaces to the young urban families in search of eco-friendly living areas.

Now the question is: How can "green living," specifically natural air and light flow, be incorporated into the designed condominium area where cramped and even crowded living spaces are the norm?

In an article that appeared on cooper.com.ph we read, floating "Sick Building Syndrome" by Astrid Lim, it was described as: "sick building syndrome (SBS) can be summarized as all the symptoms associated with a building's occupants or specific which leads to acute health problems or causes office, or experienced by the occupants of that building."

The article also stressed that sometimes, such occupants experience sudden health concerns due to the poor quality of the air they are breathing. This type of air usually contains contaminants like dust, molds, bacteria, and other small particles that are transmitted through inadequate or fresh airflow. This situation is especially rampant in cramped residential spaces lacking regular maintenance or poorly planned living spaces.

Taking on the task of continuously providing the young urban family with options to alleviate the deteriorating standards of city condo living, design engineers of DMCI Homes have long been breaking with the idea of implementing a building design that worked with the basic but often overlooked concept of the duality of seasons in the Philippine region. The Northeast monsoon, which occurs generally during the first half of the year, brings cool and dry winds (amihan) from Siberia and China, while the Southwest monsoon (habagat) brings moisture-laden winds (habagat) from the West Pacific Ocean and South China Sea during the second half.

To add to this, the newly successful implementation of the single-loaded corridors and wing (elevation on the Philippines' prevailing weather conditions, DMCI Homes has designed another architectural innovation that integrates natural light and ventilation in their building design features. Called Luminvent, with direct reference to light and ventilation, this system allows for the flow of natural light and even air around and into their high-rise structures. First introduced in Tivoli Garden Residences in Mandaluyong, this breakthrough technology is borne on

Experience a breakthrough in wind and light technology.

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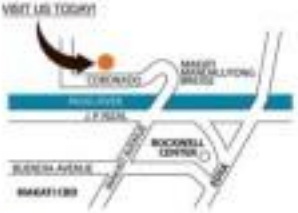
- ✔ Healthier for you and your family



TIVOLI GARDEN RESIDENCES

by DMCI Homes

HLURB LTS No. 19703

THE Observatory at the Tivoli Garden Residences Iris Tower – another green living innovation from DMCI Homes. Enjoy the unobstructed views of Makati and Ortigas through windows joined seamlessly with walkways, observation decks, seating and floor-to-ceiling glass walls.

THE Central Atrium provides both visual relief and a relaxing ambience to residents.

SINGLE Loaded Corridors and Breezeways at the ends of each floor.

planning to see benefiting almost 200 families residing in the mid-level project.

With these many high spaces (also called Sky Decks or Breezeways) at each end of every five floor levels, and the single openings at the ends of each level, natural light and air penetrates through the building and all the unit spaces. Wind-powered ventilation is created as the structure's inner areas of positive and negative pressure. Employing the basic principles of airflow, the introduction of the single-loaded corridor and large openings of the Sky Decks provide channels through which air can move. Fresh air flows in while stale air is displaced or pushed out.

"On all four sides, there are big openings and air passages in the buildings. From semi-diffuse penetration of natural light, the architecture and even through it's ceiling, the function does a cross ventilation and natural lighting on all sides; residents get the feeling of an instantly natural home setting as opposed to living in damp and cramped concrete structures. Also, through this design technology, homeowners will be able to manage the high cost of energy consumption while doing their part in caring for the environment. Our commitment is to design products that are sustainable while addressing and anticipating the needs of young families," Alfredo Austria, DMCI Homes' president explains. "We want them to know and feel that there's no place like DMCI homes."

No doubt, well-planned and sustainable living spaces provide condo residents the much-needed respite from loud, gridlocked, and dusty concrete towers. Apart from remembering loved and spacious, perspective buyers should also do the math. Does this developer anticipate my requirements in the nearest but also my living establishment in the future? Do they address my education not only my personal needs but also of my family? Does buyers should have an option to purchase "green" homes, which are not only energy efficient, but environmentally friendly and durable, but most importantly, cost-efficient.

The luminvent design technology of DMCI Homes is also utilized in La Vista Residences, the newly launched exclusive condominium project located along Tali Avenue in Vista City. It's the only residential development in the Eastside Tali area with the top-notch facilities with well-crafted, well-balanced urban dwellings that address their need for comfort and relaxation in this setting.

DMCI Homes is the country's premier triple A builder- developer that is top-of-the-mind, chosen by consumers who believe that urban families who aspire had finished residential options, but still aspire to achieve a value for table, exceeding quality of life parameters in their place of residence. It is also a company of innovative builders and engineers that expect who develop positive day-living solutions for urban families. With over 30 years of experience, DMCI Homes offers its customers the highest level of respective and value adherence to global standards. Pick to finance, risk and identity focused development, Filipinos can finally enjoy a sustainable, safe, cost-effective and meaningful way of life.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel
Editor Thelma Bravo-San Juan

Chilling at a minus-5 degrees icebar—in hot Pattaya

Amazing Thailand continues to amaze

By Siel Cabal

THAILAND, "THE Land of Smiles," holds a special place in my heart.

It was to Bangkok that my best friend and I had our very first trip abroad. We were teenagers back then. We felt safe shopping even after midnight, thanks to Bangkok's safecondrife shopping malls and sprawling night bazaars. We were also able to find good bargains and stretch our meager pocket money.

My first out-of-the-country fashion shoot was also in Bangkok. I headed a team of five in a foreign land to work on fashion editorials. Securing permits, lugging heavy photo-shoot equipment (including the clothes), and eating elephants as models were part of the ordeal.

Thailand is also where I mustered the courage to learn to cook. Thanks to a media culinary trip two years ago, I was able to cook decent Thai dishes: Pad Thai, Tom Yum and Chicken curry. Now, I have grown accustomed to the kitchen, and am no longer intimidated by the oven.

It's also where I got to unleash my enthusiasm for photography. How can you not fall in love with Bangkok's beautiful temples, fantastic ruins and restaurant houses? You just want to snap away as much as you can.

Among many other memorable firsts—learning the difference and feel of quality four-ply silk fabric at Jim Thompson house, the purveyor of the finest silk in Thailand; seeing an elephant walking on the sidewalk of busy Chinatown; dancing on young lads in bright orange monk robes during **a**n **InterRice** burning bow to save wine from the vineyards of Chonburi province.

When I received a travel invitation to Thailand via around the World Mart Plus, an annual tourism and travel trade fair, I didn't have second thoughts, despite the country having been gripped by political turmoil earlier this year.

With Thai Tourism Board representative Irene de Jesus, I traveled to Bangkok along with other media representatives—Dee Poteckt, Buddy Becks, Jackie Olga and Lulu San Juan.

Dr. Kraingsri Sudhasasseth, deputy director general of culture and sports tourism department, assured us visitors: "Thailand has been relatively calm and stable, with daily life back to normal for the Thai people and visitors alike. Thus, Thailand's tourism sector has again proven its ability to bounce back."

When I'm in Thailand, it always feels like it's my first time. The place never ceases to charm me with its sights, sounds, people, shopping and food. Here's a lowdown on things you can do in this country.

1. Watch a spectacular Thai cultural show

In Pattaya, you watch the Unique city Safari in Bangkok, you must see the stage of Siam Nimmit. It is certified by Guinness World Records as "the highest in the world in terms of stage production, with 150 performers, 500 magical costumes and state-of-the-art technology."

The production was indeed jaw-dropping. Imagine volcanoes on stage, artificial rain, dancing birdies seamlessly harnessed and flying all over. And how did they get to construct a river inside a theater, and fit elephants and goats and gigantic trains as well?

CHILLING C2

Chilling at a minus-5 degrees icebar—in hot Pattaya

From page C1

Even the Ayu Hiking Aunty's mix thrashs until he would fly his handy over as they can, conditioner it.

Outside the theatre, in the building courtyard, ride the elephant, or sample the authentic Thai buffet at Siam Immobile, also near the compound.

Siam Nirami is open 6-10 p.m. daily. Show time is at 8p.m. For reservations, call +66(0)2 6499222, visit www.siamnirami.com, e-mail info@siamnirami.com.

2. Drink your cocktails at an ice bar

In Pattaya, two hours away from Bangkok by car, an ice bar exists. On a tropical country?, where you can party Thailand-style. At -5 Degrees Icebar, are had to wear extra-thick winter coats and gloves inside. The bar serves glacial delights like vodka shots and cocktails in ice glasses. There are ice sculptures, dancing cocktail lights and motivation. And if it gets a little too chilly for you, there is an adjacent room to defrost, which also serves cocktails and good tapas.

-5 Degrees Icebar is at 254 Moo. 9 Nakluea Road, Banglamung, Chonburi. Visit www.minus5pattaya.com, call +66(0) 38-426766, 086-929-9888.

3. Watch a smashing transvestite cabaret show

The Tiffany's Show is the first authentic transvestite cabaret show in Southeast Asia. It has created for over 36 years, attracting droves of tourists to Pattaya. The talented "ladyboys" wannabes in to gorgeous showgirls for an hour-long spectacle featuring timeless Broadway hits, albums and Bollywood dances. Thai folk dances and even shows on pop hits. It was also a treat to have surprise guests taken with Miss Tiffany Universe after the show and see the other performers up close.

Tiffany's Show is located at 464 Moo. 9 Pattaya 2nd Road, Pattaya City. Visit www.tiffany-show.co.th. Show times: 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

4. Get up close with over 70 international celebrities

Missed it mind all the way to London to see Queen Elizabeth and other famous celebrities. Madame Tussauds, the world's favorite wax museum, will open its doors in Bangkok on Dec. 4 at Siam area.

View your photos taken with over 70 wax figures, all of which look shockingly like the real thing. We were given a sneak peek of the museum, where we measured were George Clooney and guided around with Tao Ming's still wax figure.

Madame Tussauds is at the 6/F, Siam Discovery, Rama 1 Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok; check out www.madametussauds.com/bangkok. Open daily from 10 a.m. 9 p.m.

5. Enjoy activities in a 1,500-year-old rainforest

Flight of the Gibbon Pattaya, The Rainforest adventure, promises a full day of adventure for the whole family. Spend hours up in the canopy, go on a river or waterfall trek, try the zip line (as seen in ABS's "Amazing Race") or just explore the majestic rain forest. It's less than an hour from both Bangkok and Pattaya, at the Chonburi one, a sanctuary for monkeys, gibbons, wild boar, bears, deer and hornbills.

Visit www.seventpanas.com/call 66-99-7065511.

6. Relax at a spa

One must leave Thailand without trying its signature massages. I tried Ramindra Wellness Spa Resort's massages on a trip to Chiang Mai a year ago, and they still have an impression on me.

I got the chance to commit a northern Indian dance-who-read my energy levels and chakra points via a computer. Discovered, provided therapy for me was based on a holistic blending of old and new healing traditions.

The Ramindra Wellness Spa has recently opened a branch of Bangkok city proper. I thought I would never feel that deeply relaxed feeling again—until I tried its traditional Thai massage again. It just gets better and better.

Ramindra Wellness Spa is at the 8/F, Grande Center Point Hotel, 153/2 Soi Mahadlekluang 1, Ratchadamri Road. Call 66(0)2651-1000. Visit www.centerpoint.com.

7. Find inner peace and truth

Prasat Sri Ariyan, or the Sanctuary of Truth, is a massive all-wood structure (no metal nails were used), handcarved and built by over 300 carvers from generations of families, and stands 105 meters high.

Going to the sanctuary, we had to walk on a dirt road. There, out of nowhere arose the sea, this gigantic structure appeared, imminently and breathtakingly carved. The structure is said to be able to withstand earthquakes to the tune, rain and even tornadoes.

The Sanctuary of Truth pays homage to the gods of the universe and planets, the earth's origin, beauty, and eternal truths. Its purpose? Love and embrace the planet's restful tombs and enemies, and breathe in the fresh sea air.

The Sanctuary of Truth is at Lamu Ratchaseri Pitchayawat Road, Wadtrai, Siri 31, Call +66 (0)38-225-807. Open daily from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TRAVEL INFO

Contact the tourism authority of Thailand at (+66) 1600 or e-mail tat_mail@yahoo.com or tat_mail@tat.or.th.

STAY

Siam City Hotel Bangkok
417-5 Ayothaya Road, Payathai, Bangkok 10400 call (662) 2478123.

Garden Cliff Resort and Spa
If you've had enough of the city-vibe, relax at Pattaya, dubbed "sin city" of Thailand. Only three hours away from Bangkok proper. It offers sun, sand and cool sea air.
235/31 Moo 4, Soi Naklua 15, Pattaya Naklua Road, Jomtien Naklua, Amphur Banglamung, Chonburi call: 4800 3676, 4020 mail: www.gardencliffpattaya.com.

DINE

Four Seasons Hotel's Spice Market
at Harbour Court, lobby level. Open for lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. For reservations call +66 (0)2 1268888 ext. 1222. Visit www.fourseasons.com.

FOUR Seasons Hotel's Spice Market...a must-stop for Thai foodies

AT THE TSUNTU...Mun Phu Jit is Chao de Jesus, Julvio Olga, Jim Paredes and Buddy Bacio

RELAXING: Tibetan Bowl Sound massage at Ramindra Wellness Spa

Artists create collectible works for rare auction

By Margo C. Enriquez
Court Buzzer

Ballet Philippines does it again for art and dance

BALLET Philippines Board led by Antonio Cojuangco, Ana Gregorio and Margie Moran-Floirendo, with works by Lamera, Nolasco and Dindo Oliveros

BALLET PHILIPPINES fund-raising auction is a medley of artists and patrons.

Although the subjects are largely dance-related, the auction offers anything from Bonsai's new olive to Mindoro's beloved sculptures, and antique leather books donated by Jonathan Best.

It will be held Oct. 20-28 at the Area in the City Southside Global City.

BP president Margarita Moran Floirendo went to Bonsai, Cavite, to ask sculptors Eduardo Castrillo, and to Baguio to inspire National Artist Benedicto Cabrera to produce a work. She urged sculptor Bernardino Abaya to donate a sculpture of a young Rafael "Bunoy" Ibrahim and Edna Maolin in a pas-de-deux, entwined in the '80s. It is made of cement and ground-up wood, whose grains follow the body's contour.

Over lunch hosted by BP at Lolo Inah's (CP), a preview of the works had the female artists as guests...all of us partial to gay.

Lamera is painting with her inner eye. Betsy Westendorp-Brias, 82, presented her signature impressionistic flowers. Westendorp's garden in Makati has always been her muse. The canvases depict flowers with fine strokes clustered into compact compositions. Colorful poppies, daisies and dandelions and dabbed on canvas are set against a smooth wips of white and blue, evocative of Spanish dunes.

Westendorp said the dandelions were challenging to paint. Hence, she set out and put them in a glass bowl. So I can paint them well. Otherwise, the memories they are touched, they are blown away."

Araneli Dans, 81, is admired for her fine detail and romanticism.

"I started as portrait painter," she said. "My portraits are not based on photographs. You sit for me and I paint you. I was trained that way by Fernando Amorsolo himself. It brought in good money, but it frustrated me a lot. They want to know 20 years off and 20 pounds off. I'm not going to live a Vida Bella on canvas."

Dans went back to her roots, starting the paintings of Juan Luna, Simon Flores, Damian Domingo of Filipino women in their daily life.

"I said why not get piña and translace since still life rituals nobody was doing?" said Dans. She became noted for her piña mestiza paintings rendered with precision and detailing.

"Since I'm a realist, I have the model in front of me. It's a guarantee that grandaughter outlives. It blooms in one day. I saw the gumamela bloom and drew it first. People don't look at them. It's our tribute to our Maker to present the gumamela. It may be commonplace, but this one shouts," she explained.

"What makes the painting challenging is the use of watercolor. I don't use other pigments. The translucent of the piña against the dark per spective in the paper."

Dans also created a Madonna and Child piece on a stone design donated by Michael Cacnio, mounted on wooden easel given by retired AFP member Ramon Jacinto.

Velasco, Olivedo

Lydia Velasco, 66, tries to be poetic in her large oil encaustics (1.0 x 1.0 m) of nature inspired by the Botticelli paintings. Instead of solid figures, her trees sit as drift against the tropical landscapes, their gnarled branches expressive. They are set against a landscape which dissipates into the purest mostly-mixed.

Velasco worked in an ad agency under the direction of National Artist Cesar Legaspi.

To suggest a tropical setting, Velasco painted mangoes and orchids in the backdrop. The color tones were warm: yellow and orange. "I don't like pastels. They make me feel weak. I like strong colors that represent the inner strength of the woman. They're feminine, as shown in the silkwood dresses, but their muscles are strong."

One of the to-die for works is one by the late Ondi Olivedo. It's a signature theme...an anguished, distorted figure, bathed in light flowing from darkness.

To Olivedo, the canvas was not just the portion to be covered but a world but rather a surface on which reality was interpreted by the brush strokes and blenders of color.

The starting bid prices can range from P20,000 to P1.2-million.

"The auctions for this season will support scholarship programs which cost P6 million. We have 100 scholars. We take money in support of our scholarship. We've been able to get our dancers from those scholarships," says Floirendo.

BP wants to raise P20 to P30 million a year. Last season, the company was able to make a little profit from the tours, events and ticket sales.

Ballet Barbie, an auction of Barbie dolls dressed up by the country's top designers, has raised some P2 million.

HINDU-INSPIRED carvings

MAJESTIC wooden facade of the temple

Great edifice in the making in Thailand

HUGE face of Ganesh and intricate carvings of elephants

By Luis Carlo Santjuan

Most 10th created countless structural wonders...the pyramids of Egypt, China's Great Wall, Rome's St. Peter's Basilica, India's Taj Mahal, the Philippines' Rice Terraces, one can go on and on. Could man still have other magnificent things to create?

A two-hour drive from Bangkok would take you to Pattaya. Along its coast there is a place called Triuam Satchathum," or the Sanctuary of Truth, a palatial wooden temple.

Businessman and owner of Wonderful Asia, Associates in Thailand, Khun Lek, thought of creating such a masterpiece as his contribution to the preservation of Thai craftsmanship and artistry. He also wanted to show us others side to Bangkok aside from the clubs and the night life.

Initially, one would think the temple was centuries-old. In fact, it is not. Its construction began only in 1981. 20 years later it has yet to be completed. It will take another 20 years, but one doesn't have to wait that long to see the grandeur of the place.

As you drive down the coast to see the temple, the big edifice looms before you. Its facade is filled with intricate wooden carvings from Hindu and Buddhist faiths.

Inside, you are up close the richness and ornateness of the temple. You are taken first to the first hall: nature: the sea, where carvings depict the story of creation, according to Hinduism, four huge mortals represent the four elements—earth, wind, fire and water.

The hand-hewn interior building is straight. It is at least 300 years old and consists of different eras. This explains the different hues of red, brown and green on the carvings.

Perhaps the most poignant art piece in the temple is the statue of the family representing the four main religions, classified according to which religion came first: Hinduism (father), Buddhism (mother), Christianity (eldest child) and Islam (youngest).

The sculpture shows that even if the four religions have different beliefs, all share one belief and that is the existence of a greater Being and man's core purpose of doing good.

The interior of the temple would perhaps be best described by this line seen at the middle of the enclosure, "Materialistic pleasure is a superficial and elderized joy. True happiness is found in intrinsic spiritual pleasure."

That is why long after the owner passed away, his son is overseeing the project.

The temple is a sanctuary, a place that welcomes everyone, regardless of religion; a showcase of a person's love for his country and everything that is good.

LIFELIKE elephant carvings...a showcase of Thai craftsmanship

ON ONE of the temple's huge columns, great wood was used for the carvings

Fast facts

- Each huge column weighs 20 tons and it took 24 boats six hours to transport the carvings.
- 300 carpenters, carvers, and artisans are working on the temple.
- The temple weighs 20,000 tons.
- All sculptures are carved from wood.
- The temple has intricate details, with wood carvings depicting Thailand's four major religions—Chinese, Hindu, Khmer and Thai.

MOSH graces visitors entering the temple

Begun in 1981, it will take 20 years more to finish it—a marvel in wood

INTRICATE sculpture depicts the story of Creation

Travel Briefs

Tourism fair

TOURISM MALAYSIA held the first-ever "Tara na sa Malaysia!" travel fair 2010, participated in by several state tourism boards, parties as tour and travel agencies who offered special tour packages and the lowest rates for visitors from the Philippines. The three-day event showcased Malaysia's diversity.

For more information about Malaysia, visit www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my and join the "Tara na sa Malaysia!" Facebook group.

Laguna tour

On Nov. 6, Inner Be Tours will take participants on another journey to Laguna.

The "Enchanting Laguna" tour starts at Villa Escudero Hotel Resort in Pagsanjan where participants do a short nature trek to the waterside, enjoy native breakfast of dalag sa asin and take home with some of the province's fresh harvests. Next destination is Kapa Kasada in Pila, a restaurant-cum-gallery that showcases works of local artists. Lunch with unique dishes like bringe-ang tapsi and misua-ha-wala participants, who may also go around the shops for items made by Pila's famous craftsmen.

From Pila, the tour goes to Los Baños. At CafeBoss, a local entrepreneur will share with participants the wonders of rice bran, the raw material for Oryza brand products, as well as the many uses and applications of the humble water lily. A refreshing walk around the gardens where ornamental plants and herbs are grown is a must before sitting down to a merienda of bukayo and pandesal with kesong puti among others.

Participants can also visit the Ateth Gallery for collectors' items. For bookings, call 732-3351, 0907-6004103 (Kenry) or 0921-2082735 (Karla).

Year-round budget flights to Asian cities

Thailand hosts world-class theater ensembles from all over the globe in Bangkok's 13th International Festival of Dance and Music, ongoing until Oct. 24. The performances range from opera to ballet.

Another must-see is the House of Dancing Water in Macau. Uniquely created for the City of Dreams Casino, the show is housed in a state-of-the-art theater that includes a stage pool. The spectacular show comes complete with dazzling costumes and never-before-seen special effects.

In Brunei from November 10 to 15, observe the Muslim religious holiday, Festival of Sacrifice or Hari Raya Aidiladha.

Cebu Pacific offers year-round budget-friendly flights to Hong Kong, Singapore, Brunei, Beijing, Bangkok, Kota Kinabalu, Taipei and Guangzhou and eight other international destinations. Visit www.cebupacificair.com.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Baguio for non-tourists: the bookshop, the garden—and that raisin bread

By Elizabeth Lalanga
Contributor

WHEN PEOPLE asked why we moved our young family to Baguio in 1992, my answer was: "For the flowers and to keep the children away from the malls as long as it's possible." When the same people hem-haw me my adult daughters have now chosen to live and work in metropolitan Manila and ask why, my answer is a shrug and a weak, "They always have Baguio to come home to." When they do, they stay long enough to read, take walks and eat their fill of the things Baguio falls take for granted.

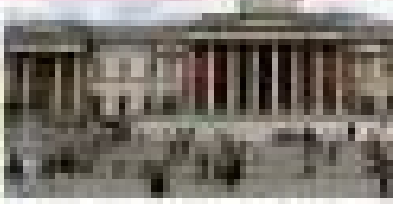
A resident said of my kids as they were growing up and getting around the city on shoe-rear, "They think of Baguio as their sofa." That was how at home they were.

I think of the city that way—a plump, cushy sofa I can lie on with bundles of reading materials by my side. When I feel hunger pangs and am too lazy to cook, I can get up, slice a loaf of raisin bread, spread some pate on the side, brew a cup of Benguet coffee, eat while admiring the view of the dewy garden framed by a window.

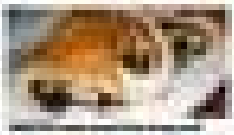
I know of one Manilan who used to go up just to shop. When another friend, fibbing with the idea of relocating to Baguio, asked what else could she do there, I said, "Well, you can become an

MANILYN

The best way to explore London is on foot



Baguio for non-tourists: the bookshop, the garden—and



The La Salle College of Saint Dorothy

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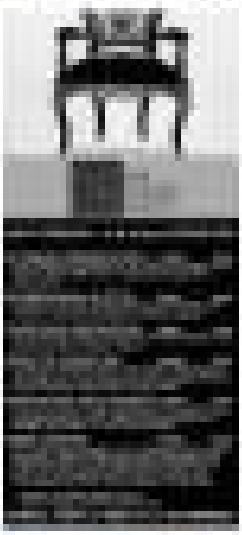
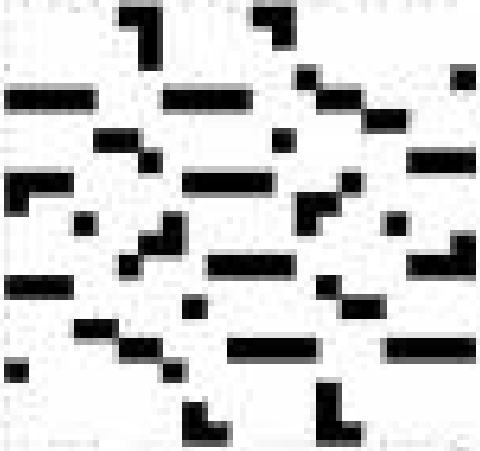
that raisin bread



PIZZA HUT INTRODUCES THE KING OF ALL-CHEESE PIZZA!

"Mayor Meyer" Cheese Inspired!

SUNDAY CROSSWORD



Shop with your SM Eco-Bag and help protect the earth!

SM Supermalls' encouraging you to do your part with their new Eco-Bags. Not only will each purchase spread an eco-friendly reminder, but it will also get you a chance to win fabulous prizes.

Launched last August 6, the four bags send simple messages to help keep our natural resources close through their unique designs. With your support, younger generations will be able to see and understand how important it is to keep nature intact. And every time you buy the set of 4 Eco-Bags (All 4 designs are for only P140.00), you receive a raffle coupon that gets you closer to the fantastic prizes! So start buying your Eco-Bags and shop with them now! If you're seen using it at any Hypermarket, SM Supermarket and Savemore, you get two (2) points reward on your advantage card! Here at SM, we know what you and nature deserve. For more details, see posters and banners.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

PRESIDENT AQUINO receives an 'emoticake' marking his 100 days in office from Manopol Lu Makati Communications head Joy Pimentel during a recent private function in the hotel.

Latest city sport: Spot-Noy-on-a-date

WHAT DOES a 50-year-old bachelor, who just happens to be President, look forward to in the next six years?

What a typical 20-year-old eligible bachelor should look forward to, whether he's President or not—to go out on dates and possibly go on seeing someone he likes.

Here that is widely believed, if not accepted, that the barely one-year relationship of President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and Information executive Shalani Soledad has run its course, there seems to be a new sport in the city: spot-Noy-on-a-date.

That unofficially kicked off last Saturday night when Aquino was spotted at Mesa in Greenbelt 3 (not exactly a hidding place, actually a place less visible than only Megamall) with a young pretty career woman. The date—actually there were supposed to be others with them, except that the others couldn't make it...was private until the woman went to the restroom and ran into chief-of-staff Jesse Robredo's two Palestinian who struck up a conversation with her.

Palestinian lost no time in Tweeting her encounter, down to the ladies' drink the woman was having. (Aquino doesn't take alcohol—not beer, not wine.) The woman was nice, Palestinian told a friend. She told Palestinian that this was their first date, after having met each other (once each) as exes. (Actually a wedding, we learned.)

Then sometime the following week Aquino and his family were spotted dining in a Chinese restaurant with presidential stylist Liz Uy Again, that sent tongues wagging, with the media staff noting how the President was collectively serving his stylist. But then, what gentleman wouldn't, right?

(Then there are also those who tell us to link him to a young widow—a rumor that surfaced even those close to him. It's not true.)

Whatever and whoever. It's obvious that the country's most eligible bachelor wants to lend a regular bachelor's life, or at least the slightest semblance of it—and the people are scrutinizing their necks and peering into his private space.

This revives Aquino's fear, which he had when his mother, Cory Aquino, was president—that no gift would want to date him because she wouldn't want to be the source of national attention. (Hmm, think again, Mr. President.)

"Let's leave him alone," said a friend. "Malayuan na natin. Hay na lang ang mga ninong nang sa."

Indeed, the guy as he entered Malacañang walked into all kinds of land mines set by his predecessor, from midnight appointees to midnight deals. His opponents have eased and continue to vet all the dirty tricks in the book, if only to see him off track. Major, major stress.

Keeping our prospects for a relationship is a good way to daytime—just knowing that there's someone out there for you, someone good-looking to converse with, to see your faces after sex.

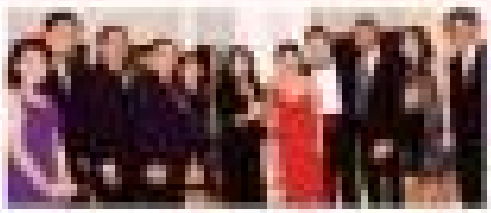
Our bachelor-Chief Executive indeed has prospects. Of course, more than one, we like to think. The guessing game continues.

LIFESTYLE

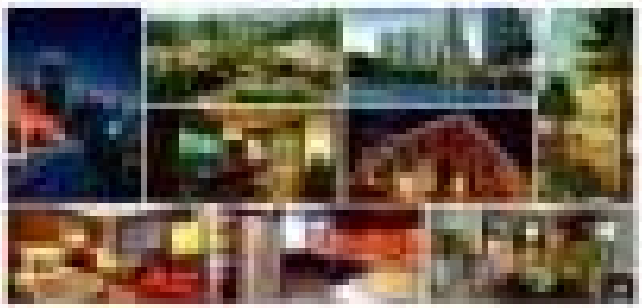
The making of a grand 50th birthday celebration

SMALL GOES

Latest city ...



BIG LEAGUE HERE.



CODES

ROCKWELL

TOY KINGDOM

Toy Kingdom's Spook-tacular Halloween

Girls ready for trick-or-treat in their vampire costumes

Try that time of year when fun a frightful, there's thrill in the chill, and when ghosts can be cool. And kids can get into the Halloween spirit with spook-tacular stuff from Toy Kingdom, the amazing toy store.

Give your guests a haunting Halloween welcome with creepy knights, pumpkin lanterns, skull table pots, cocoa crates, hanging monsters, and other horrifying Halloween decor.

Kids can liven the scary party with costumes that take them to the dark side—as vampires, witches, and monsters, or that take them to the enchanting realm of storybook characters like princesses and fairies, or give them a chance to play their favorite superheroes. There are reusable masks, hats, wigs, to complement their looks, as well as pumpkin pails and loot bags for treat or treating.

Another way to get into the spook-tacular spirit it by joining in the Halloween parties in the mall. Toy Kingdom will be hosting a Halloween Masquerade on October 31 at SM Makati. During the event, girls can explore Halloween's light side with Barbie: A Fashion Fairytale, while boys can get into the action with Hot Wheels Battle Force 5.

Check out Toy Kingdom's exciting Halloween hotspot on the same day: the House of Halloween, a tie-up with Cartoon Network at The Podium, and the Scarenival Party with Nickelodeon at the SM Mall of Asia. A minimum purchase is participating Toy Kingdom and Toy Kingdom Express branches entitles one to join in the frightful fun. Prizes for the House of Halloween, P1,000 for Scarenival, both inclusive of any Halloween shirt.

Join in the spook-tacular Halloween celebration at Toy Kingdom Express at all SM Department Stores and at Toy Kingdom stores at SM Makati, The Podium, Ayala Malls Manila Bay, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM City Fairview, The Block at SM City North EDSA, and the SM Mall of Asia's Mall and Kid's Universe. In the provincial areas, these are located at the SM Supermalls in Pampanga, Manila, Baguio, Lucena, Bacoor, and Batangas in Luzon, and Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, and Davao in the Visayas areas. Also visit our website at www.toykingdom.ph.

Linda devil and angel

Creepy and cute: Skeleton and Monster Bride costumes for kids

Play pirate as you fill your Halloween loot bag

Look frighteningly fab as an immortal vampiress

Halloween's magical: a mythic mistress, Dashing knights and beautiful princess

IN THIS ISSUE

■ In smartphone wars, a new killer weapon/11

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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SMDC
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'Mabuhay! Welcome to Fantasy Island!'—my Amazing Race Asia spiel

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

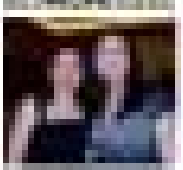
In my abaca costume, I'm sure I looked more festive than the show's dashing host, Allan Wu

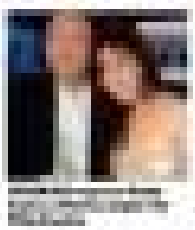
KEEPING A SECRET from my hubby Dennis was not a difficult act to bungle. In fact, it would have been more challenging to have an affair here in our small city, where everyone knows one other and gossip moves faster than news.

Fortunately for hubby, my secret was just to fly to Legaspi City for a few and head to the beautiful island resort, Misibis Bay, to be Amazing Race Asia's official pit stop greeter for their Philippine leg. Unfortunately for Dennis, the contract had a strict cle-

PARALYMPIC FI

'Mabuhay! Welcome to Fantasy Island!'...





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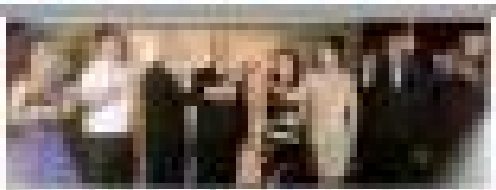

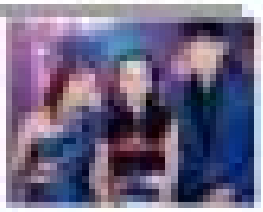

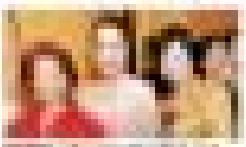

'There is no hole too deep'

Watch the Amazing Race Asia Season 4 teams as they make a pit stop at Mactan Bay, the Philippines' Luxury Island Playground

'There is no hole too deep, where God is not deeper still'

Lessons from the Chile mine rescue

LAST THURSDAY morning, the words strategy, faith, hope and resilience came alive for the rest of the world.

Watching the last of the 33 Chilean miners step out of the Phoenix capsule looking well and happy, I could not but be filled with joy and thanksgiving. I thought to myself, "If that is not His grace, what is?"

Chile is to be lauded for the rescue. President Sebastian Pinera's leadership throughout the crisis was exemplary. What struck me most about the 69-day ordeal were the stories of courage, love, friendship that the 33 men had shown one another and their unwavering faith that they would emerge from the dark pit.

My heart was moved by their humbler devotion. Everyone was changed by the experience. Pinera said it best—"Chile: Chile today is more united and stronger than ever, and I think Chile today is more supportive and more valued in the whole world. What ended up as a real blessing from God started as a possible tragedy. But the unity, the faith, the compassion, the honesty, the solidarity of the Chileans in those 69 days makes us very proud."

His words reminded me of the passage in Genesis 50:20: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

The miners' ordeal reminded me of **tre**ments and challenges are inevitably face. How in the deep and dark trenches it is sometimes hard to see the light come through the dark.

In these amazing story, I saw how true friendship, trust, respect and above all, hope and faith, are really the key to get you through, whatever "hole" you find yourself in.

There is brotherhood and kinship sure flows through their darkest days. In the early weeks they had no one but each other. The story that when the mine collapsed, they were in an area called *la refugio* or the shelter, was not lost on me. Sometimes we are made to go through trials, but always, God gives us comfort or shelter.

Hope and moral support

The miners endured because they know they had not been forgotten—they heard the drill from above, received notes and supplies—drawing strength from knowing that their loved ones and the rest of the country were making for them to pull through. Their hope was kept alive.

The unconditional love and support of family and friends is unmatched by someone who is on the lowest point in his life.

I found it beautiful that the care packages sent down the shaft were called *palomas* or doves—tangible expression of love and peace to help their spirits up.

One miner said, "The most debris that comes down, the faster progress of the drilling above."

Put in deeper context, we can also choose to look at it as a time of growing and letting go. I am pretty sure that the miners had a lot of time to think, as did the family and friends who waited for them.

It is in dark and lonely moments when we think nothing is happening that the greatest growth takes place within. As the "debris" or excess of our lives and issues is removed, we happen to travel light.

The shopping areas of what we do or how

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Gabalfo

Her husband was playing around—with a man

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Mercer

DEAR EMILY,

My husband and I have been married close to 45 years now. We got pregnant immediately and had three children, all born within a year of each other.

Everybody thought we had an ideal marriage. We're a good-looking couple if they say so, our children are beautiful, and our parents on both sides who were friends in school are prominent in their own right.

We belong to this unrelated circle of like-minded people who were in the same universities, work in the same corporate atmosphere, are members of the same select clubs that would meet on weekends for fun and games. Ideal, right?

Anyone looking at us from the outside would think so. They'd probably even give an arm or leg to take our place. Then again, probably not.

Despite our very comfortable and charmed life, I know something was amiss. It was almost surreal, like driving down a road with no bumps at all. My husband and I never had any screaming matches, much less argued about anything. We were always affectionate toward each other. There was no question that when one is around, the other would be his beloved.

But I found myself becoming more and more alone. A wife develops that gut feeling—and discovered my husband was having an affair. Not with a woman, but with a man! This tall, attractive and successful corporate honcho whose body and soul I thought I knew was finishing schedule like!

He didn't deny anything. We hurled like very civilized people and our confrontation was in control of emotion, it sounded like we were just planning a dinner party. No screaming matches. No histrionics.

He said I could do anything—even have affairs myself. If I wanted to. He just asked that we maintain a semblance of family and not do anything embarrassing. Neither he nor I moved out of the family home despite the turmoil.

After a few affairs and convictions (ego shots!) for long periods of time to escape the scrutiny of friends, I finally accepted my fate and settled quietly back to our old marital routine. I couldn't stay away from him. I truly loved him, despite everything. He was a wonderful man, honest, generous and kind—and I couldn't begrudge him for the way he was.

We've remained the "ideal" couple everyone thinks we are. It's not so bad. —Tina Love

Answer:

I don't know whether to applaud you and have you canonized, or just slap you straight for being a martyr.

But it is uplifting and exhorting to read a letter that dripped with class and civility.

You did not seek to be a martyr. You just knew in your heart that you loved your husband, and—even back after much soul-searching to take him for what he is, warts and all. You took your marriage vows seriously when you promised to hold and to cherish each other, in sickness and in pain, and all that jazz—till death!

And if you yourself played around, it was more as a balm to soothe your wounds, or maybe a momentary lifeline to save you from drowning.

You will not win a Nobel Prize for running around and embracing your foe. There will be no songs sung for your tenacity and resolve in staying on in this marriage. But the heavens, with all its magnanimity, will look kindly on you for not making judgments and accepting that your husband himself couldn't get away from the call of his own lust.

You were dealt lemons in the area of love, but you were given no small share in other ways. In brief, sight, you'd probably choose love over wealth. It was possibly in your most agonizing moments that you understood... you really can't have it all.

And in seeing the total perspective clearly, you found your strength.

E-mail the author at emaily-bal@inquirer.com.ph. SUBJECT: LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE
■ 'Mabuhay! Welcome to Fantasy Island!' –my 'Amazing Race Asia' spiel /F1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Building homes and banking relationships

By Joy Rojas
Contributor

IT DID phenomenally well with its recent offering, a home loan package with a low 6.99 percent interest rate plus waived loan fees to boot. Now, HSBC, "the world's local bank," readies itself once more with what Ron Logan, SVP and head of Personal Finances Services, likes to call a "very new rate." How does a 5.99-percent home loan sound?

"It's clean," says Logan. "Whether you're in the market for a big house, a small house, a condominium unit, or a property in an upscale subdivision, everybody gets the same benefit, equally."

With this latest offer, new loan applicants enjoy a low 5.99-percent per annum under a one-year fixed re-pricing scheme. Customers also enjoy a discount on home loan rates for the life of the term. All HSBC Advance and HSBC Premier customers enjoy steady rates 0.25-percent and 1-percent off respectively on the prevailing/standard home loan interest rate starting the next re-pricing period.

It's an offer that wouldn't have come at a better time, as many Filipinos—from young

With its commitment to look after clients for years to come, HSBC promises more than a home loan rate too good to pass up

READING >>

Sex and Manansala

By Constantino C. Tejero

NATIONAL ARTIST Victorio Manansala is so mollycoddle. Of the 13 Modernists, or, indeed, of his generation, he is probably the most upfront in depicting sex in art.

In the 1970s, even in his senior years, and shortly before his death, he was creating sexual imagery of the kind that we find only in the works of Jerrold Ibiñana, Elmer Rodin and Mark Mondalen two generations later. Such sexual energy reminds us of Picasso, who was shocking critics through his life.

We thought we were vitally unflappable when it came to the portrayal of sexuality in the visual arts (no doubt aided by extreme cleverness). Yet we were somehow jolted when confronted by the erotica displayed in the recent exhibit "Si Mang Ito Nang..." Encountering Manansala" in the Tall Galleries of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila.

The biggest Manansala exhibit ever, with over 70 pieces from private collections, mounted to commemorate the National Artist's birth centenary this year, it had a whole section devoted to his nude studies and sexually

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Sex and Manansala

From page G1

introspective images. (Over at the GSIS Museum in Pasay City, the companion exhibit "Mga Gawa sa Mong Emong" is ongoing until Oct. 30.)

During a tour of the bleakest towns in the late '50s, while sailing on the Manila-north leaves on Sinagpanga, Rizal, when we were quietly received by his widow Bill. Ah, we were somewhat surprised to find small erotic sketches by him adorning the bathroom. It was a bit of a revelation to us.

Portrait of countercultural

But as we had promised at the fair—specifically the pair of mural-size pieces in charcoal on paper hung each other on opposite walls of the gallery, which were shown here to the public for the first (and probably last) time. Their sheer size alone is forbidding, considering the nudeness, but particularly disturbing are their subjects.

There are those hedonistic hillocks to create from the "Tis depicting the creamy, tattoo of sex, drugs and rock-'n'-roll of that generation. The nameless artists we had often associated with kitchen still lifes, flocks of birds, arbanesques and Cocolisonas, we never thought could be this in-your-face in showing sexuality in his art.

Both pieces strongly demonstrate the elderly artist's answers in, if not involvement with, the kitsch and mores of the young. Where the generations gap was one of the biggest issues of the time, he was apparently trying to bridge the gap.

The first, modified by the surrealist, is "Biyahe" (translated into "Voyage" but appropriately should have been "Trip," says for "mind-altering experience" among druggies in the age of Aquarius).

The scene is of a pot session of about a dozen Flower People, yes, pot smoke comes out to free the lines of the artificially induced journey from the stale frustrated reality in the pictorial house.

This was done in 1972, the tableau set up in the artist's studio on San Francisco del Monte in Quezon City in its cramped composition, geometric structure and perspective (deeply framed by the floor's checkerboard pattern), even in the use of monochrome, the piece resembles Cezanne's "The Large Bathers."

The second piece, bigger, and certainly the centerpiece of the exhibit, is "Arabian Nights," done in 1974-77.

The title refers to the street in central London where the artist had lived for six months on the upper floor of the apartment of the family of JV Cruz, then ambassador to the Court of St. James. It was a traditional area inhabited by seven nationalities, which explains the various races represented in the picture.

It is a harrowing scene of a sex orgy in progress, a tangle of limbs and torsos of over a dozen figures. The personal space is crowded but doesn't look cluttered as all—no illusion achieved through a rigorous sense of composition.

Manansala did international live modeling for the years through the years, suggested by sojourns. This is an example of his multi-layered manner of multi-figure compositions, and a right-on interpretation of the era of free love.

He reportedly called it his "Guernica," that monumental indictment of war which he considered his greatest achievement of Picasso (his hero). But then its shocking circular and compact composition appears closer to "Las Demoiselles d'Avignon" (Pi-

"SHARE"

"FEMALE Nude, Seated"

"RECLINING Nude"

"FEMALE Nude, Back View"

"FEMALE Nude, Front View"

"LES AMIS Combo"

Manansala's female nudes are seen from the back. Louie says the artist had told him he loved the back. To him, no back was ever the same, while the frontal view was predictable, thus, not as interesting. He impishly described inside, of course, some of his models' pubic hairs as "biblical."

Despite Manansala's reputation as being salacious or politics, Louie admits he was not a creep. He could be naughty but never flirted or had any bedroom involvement with his models.

And with Hilda was frequently standing at the doorway while he was doing live modeling, ready to provide coffee or snacks.

Says Louie: "Remember that he was at least a country boy."

Consumer exhibit

THE MAGALA GOVERNMENT Travel Office Philippines (MGTO—Phils.) hosts a Consumer Promo exhibit until Sunday, Oct. 17 at The Block, SM North Edsa, Quezon City. The exhibit showcases different tourist attractions in Macau, now Asia's world-leading destination. The highlights of the exhibit is the raffling of flights (to-and-fro) to Macau via Cebu Pacific, Philippine Airlines and certain leading travel agencies, which will each be available for the general public during the exhibit. Those who purchase Rizal Province appliances on the spot which also receive free valuable gift items from Macau. For more information on Macau, visit www.macautourism.gov.mo.

Halloween treat

Sto. Cerito Mall presents "Aranaville Scare" this month. Individuals 13 years old and above are invited to join the "Aranaville Exclusive" costume contest. Come in animal-inspired Halloween costumes and get a chance to win prizes from the mall and entry forms at the Art is Promo booth performed. Adult submission of your valid ID with birthdate and a P300 single purchase receipt from the Aranaville store or Planet Toys. Only 15 participants will be accommodated. Parade to be held on Oct. 30. Kids 10 years old and below can join the "Aranaville's delight" parade to win cash. Purchase a computer pak from the department store or Planet Toys and pay the registration fee at the mall's customer service booth/Panel 5. Only 300 kids will be accommodated to join the event. Come as your favorite animal or cartoon character for a chance to win prizes after the parade. The Grand Stick or Treat event is on Oct. 31. See posters for more details, call 8815-5207/ local 1109 or visit www.robinsonsmall.com.

Raffle promo

Festival Supermall, in Metro Manila, Muntinlupa City, launches it's first raffle promo ongoing until Dec. 19. Prizes include LCD televisions, laptops, MP3 players, Sony eReaders, Sony PSPs, Sony PSPs, iPod Touch, Sonic Digital Cameras, My Phone mobile phones, Samsung mobile phones, Samsung MP3 players and Sonic Project Mate Notebooks. Festival Supermall has five anchor stores: Shoppesa Supercenter, SM Department Store, Accessorizers and Beauty-mate. It also has over 600 specialty stores, boutiques and stores, a total of 2,000 multilevel parking slots.

World Bread Day in Davao

Davao Bakers Club Inc. (DBCI) is celebrating this month's World Bread Day with the theme "A Baking Celebration." Discounts on all pastries, coffee, sandwiches and freebies from DBCI-member bakeries. Among the activities are recipes or new baking trends, Oct. 19 Lu's Doughnut (children's activity), Oct. 24, and World Bread Day, Oct. 16. Sponsors are Universal Robina Corp., Bakers Philippines Inc., Philippine Packaged Milling Corp. and General Milling Corp. E-mail Vincent Rodriguez at vincent.dbci.mktdevt@yahoo.com or call 305-1902.

Exhibit

The Philippine School of Interior Design Graduating Class 2010 together with Rizal's centennial are on hold. "Celebrasyon" until Oct. 31, 10:00 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Ateneo Building, Rockwell City, Lmbo, QC.

InterCon bazaar

InterContinental Manila features the season's fashions on Oct. 21 (Costa Del Atlantic, Nov. 6 and 14 (Assumption College). Nov. 7 (Mother Child of Makati) and Dec. 5 (Hamilton 7). Shoppers will be given a 20-percent discount in Café Jeepney's a la carte menu and lunch buffet.

Jill Lazo and Mina Arenas

BUNNY Alcindo and Marra Princio

GIGA Alvarez

Cityscape and public art photo competition in Taguig

BONIFACIO GLOBAL City (BGC) holds until Oct. 30 Click BGC—a digital photography competition of BGC's cityscape and of the public art pieces installed around the district, with the theme, "Photography—that's the Passion in me; the BGC in Me."

The public art pieces that will be the subjects for photography are "Big Sagittarius," "Bahaghari," "Pre Texts," "Catastrophe Ranch Chics," "Kaia Mosaic," "Transformation," "Steambot," "Specific Gravity," "Tropacy," "Invisible Lightness," "Transq 465," and "Presence." A location map is included in the registration kit. Participants may submit a maximum of one entry of any art piece or maximum of 11 entries—one entry for every art piece. Specialprizes will be given to those who submit a complete set of art pieces.

Entries should be original, developed solely for the competition, and digitally unmanipulated. Use of software is allowed for color correction and clean-up only. Photos may be rendered in full color, black & white, sepia or monochrome. File size of edited entries should be 3400X3200 pixels and sent via e-mail to BGCinfo@gmail.com with other details specified in the registration kit. Photos will be requested to re-submit a hi-resolution file (at least 12000dpi) of the chosen photo/s also via the same email address.

Twelve winners will be chosen for public art and three winners for Cityscape routine. Each will receive P5,000.

Registration forms are available at the concierge of Bonifacio High Street (BHS) or can be downloaded from www.bonifacioglobalcity.ph. Upon submission of completed registration form, all participants will be issued IDs which will also serve as their shooting permits. Competition is open to all students, non-students and non-professionals.

Participants may want to join the Photowalk sessions with professional photographer Francis Aberham on Oct. 17, 24, 30 starting 6:30 a.m. at Bonifacio High Street BH, Bonifacio Fabrics on the same dates.

ONE of the subjects in the Click BGC photo competition is Ray Kasai's "Specific Gravity," installed at Bonifacio High Street.

World's sleekest LED TV unveiled

SAMSUNG RECENTLY unveiled the world's sleekest TV, the Samsung C9000. Held at Isay Alvarez boutique resort that offered the organizing team a chance to... the by-invitation-only product unveiling showcased the award-winning technology of the ultra-thin full 3D LED TV.

Samsung's C9000 series marries artistic design and high-performance. Ultra-thin at 6.7 inches thick, the C9000 uses a minimum of seamless metal in the front and backside, complimented with an ergonomic slide touch pad and tapered base, even newly available to the consumer's eye, and a structure that make the TV directly wall-mountable.

A premium touch screen remote control allows people to command their TV viewing experience anywhere in the home. Intuitive enabled capability for easy access to control through featuring flips, and built in 3D technology.

Guests dined on a selection of canapés specially prepared by Abejas's chef, such as lamb tenderloin, smoked salmon blini with caviar and crème fraiche, pate crab salad with avocado and liner, pounded chicken salad with shallot and chili, and toasted bowl short ribs with feta and crisp parmesan.

FRANCES Sio

Donna Cruz-Garrucho

CARLA Allegado

CYDIL Bayuto

Building homes and banking relationships

From page G1

RON LOGAN says HSBC's 5.9% percent home loan is a "very rare rate."

married couples with small kids to OFWs and retirees—are actually thinking of putting their money into a two-bedroom unit as a high-rise building or an actual house and lot either for themselves or for investment. Appropriately, developers are responding to this demand with an assortment of properties that cater to every homebuyer's needs. "You just have to look out the window and see all the condominiums and the new villages and subdivisions that are coming up. There's a huge growth in properties that Filipinos are investing in," says Logan.

With mortgage lending and home loan lending also on the rise, HSBC's objective is to offer consumers more than just the money to make their dreams come true. "Definitely it, doing a home loan is a scary thing. It's a major financial commitment, the biggest expense you're going to make in your lifetime!" exclaims Logan. "We'd like to help make it easier and better for you. We're after a full banking relationship, hopefully for a very long time."

Offering home loans in the Philippines for the past 110 years, HSBC is known mostly for its more "glamorous" products like credit cards and premier accounts. Its target, who was previously assigned in HSBC offices in China and Vietnam before accepting his post in the Philippines almost two years ago, decided to do something about it. "Hand-with-no-home-loan is like a baker with all cakes but no bread," he explains. "Giving away... rice is our home loan is an opportunity for us to actually complete the baker's office, so to speak." Clients certainly felt sure the initial 6.9% percent promo when it was officially unveiled in July and with the even lower offer, the market is expected to take advantage.

"What we want is to give you the full services. You may be coming to us for a home loan, but we can look after you and your bank accounts, your insurances and your credit card. We're not just going to look at, we your home loan," narrates Logan. "We're going to look after you for holistically, this total banking bond can certainly relate to many Filipinos' dream of owning their own home. Having "owned" houses many times around the world," the gentleman who has settled quite comfortably—and quickly in these shores to a relatively short span of time ("He has more Filipino friends than I have," says HSBC colleague and head of group communications Johanna Garcia with a laugh) a building a home as well in the south of Adelaide, Australia. "So for me, we've now adopted two children," says the Scotsman of Chinese and Irish roots, who both like to fly planes in their spare time. "I've got two younger brothers who are based in Australia. They've got families there, and after we visited them, we got sated to the Australian lifestyle and it just became our home as well."

For now, Logan is content to stay long put. "Filipinos are genuinely friendly and family-oriented, it doesn't take long to build a relationship here," he says. "It's one of the great luxuries of living in the Philippines."

Angelo King Foundation builds haven for trafficking survivors

AT THE LAUNCH of Visayas Forum-Angelo King Foundation Center of Hope: acting minister counselor of USAID Philippines Ekaala Washington; executive director of Angelo King Foundation Ester Arull; managing director of Microsoft Philippines John Bussey; deputy chief of mission of the US Embassy Cecilia A. Barcelo; president and executive director of Visayas Forum Cen ter Ma Phoe be Deliendo, president of Angelo King Foundation Keith Kingco; vice president of Banyan Philippines Johnson Ongking; and Ebaila O. Kingco

NOW ON its 22nd year, the Angelo King Foundation Inc. (AKF) is trying to help solve the problem of human trafficking by providing crisis intervention and development facility for victims survivors. Working together with Visayan Forum Foundation Inc. (VFI), AKF recently opened the Visayan Forum-Angelo King Center of Hope.

The Center is a two-story building with 1,500 sq. m floor area. It has several dormitories accommodations, a common kitchen, receiving area, training rooms, library and staff offices. AKF provided technical expertise in construction through engineer Ramon Lim to name on project costs, and United PPF with architectural companies such as Banyan Philippines, which donated the paints and painting services.

Reclaiming their lives

Teddy Kingco, president of Angelo King Foundation, says: "We joined hands with Visayan Forum and other partners who share the dream of providing a safe haven for trafficking survivors. We help them reclaim their lives and prepare them to become productive members of society."

The Center of Hope aims to recover and prepare the victims for the immediate reintegration of their sources and provide them with opportunities to rebuild their lives. Cecilia Flores-Oebanda, VFI president and executive director, says: "It is a place where victims will no longer be afraid. Instead, they will be excited about the future and eager to start their lives anew because of the empowering services and training they will engage in during their stay at the center."

Microsoft provides information technology training, while the center will facilitate legal assistance in prosecuting human traffickers.

'Hay kay Padre'

Events specialist Billy Bravo, who used to stage the "Raining" festivals when his mother, the late Meli Bravo, was mayor of Legazpi City, has a different kind of concern these days.

Saddened by the lack of health care for elderly priests in Albay and a place for them to stay, Bravo is mounting a fundraising concert on Oct. 22, 7 p.m., at the JCS Gymnasium in Legazpi City that will feature singer Jed Madela and pop star Rachel Alejandro. Bravo will direct.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barcenas

Hoping to raise P1.6 million to build the facility, Bravo is working with Msgr. Ramon Arrogante of the Parish of St. Gregory the Great and with the Diocese of Legazpi, headed by Bishop Joel Baylon.

Depending on pledges for space, curtain and sale of tickets, Billy believes this concert will be a success. He is also selling some pesata to raise a special dance number. To help, please call the Chancery at 852-4412178.

Dinner-dance

La Hermandad Zamboangueña Foundation celebrates 50 years of "fighting poverty through education" on Oct. 23 with a dinner-dance at Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati. Call Dr. Rubio at 7146648.

Named by their devotion to Our Lady of the Pillar, the group celebrated the Virgin's Feast with a nine-day Novena at Malate Church, then gathered at Club Argentina Bank of Arthurian on Oct. 12 for the 8 a.m. Mass. This year's celebrant was Fr. Kevin McHugh, St. Martin Manor, who hails from Barcelona, talked about adding Our Lady of the Pillar to the plaza in front of the church.

The holding of the gathering at Arthurian is said to be arranged as the past years by the late Dr. Arthur Reyes and his wife, Julieta Sabella Reyes. Lawyer Augusto Africa and his wife Celina, who faithfully attend the novena Masses in Malate Church, told us this has been going on for 30 years in the same venue.

This year's president is Bea Silva-Morales, who took over from lawyer Domingo "Gino" Ocampo. Other officers are Monsenet Dalupan-Tuvera, vice president; Nina Lisa Gonzalez and Lydia Perez, secretaries; and Dra. Nenay Uy-Balcazar, treasurer.

CDs of meditative music

Amy Camille Lopez, who finished Associate in Music at College of the Holy Spirit, has composed and recorded "meditative music" to CDs titled "Remembering" and "Offering."

Launched Oct. 9, 2010, at Sunset restaurant in Don Bosco, Makati, "Remembering" paid tribute to Lopez's classmate and friend of 40 years, the late Ms. Rhonilda Delgado, PhBM, who died of kidney failure.

The suite CD's focus as a composition dedicated to Amy's cousin, Fr. Antonio Asuncion Jr., the Jesuits' priest who wrote the inspiring "Peace" series (available at Jesuit Communications at Ateneo). "We are a priest forever" fills up the suite in a complete collection to the Divine Will.

Amy's CDs are available at the Don Bosco Parish's religious store and also at Stamos.

Our Lady of Pilar in MM

The Devotees of Nuestra Señora de Pilar Foundation welcomes the start of the pilgrim images of Our Lady of the Visitation of Pilar, patroness of Cagayan Valley, in Metro Manila.

Msgr. Samuel Jurado, Rector of Basilica Minore of Our Lady of Pilar, made the visit possible. Each the Virgin of Pilar at Blessed Carmel Church, Greenhills, QC, until Oct. 19; October 20-23, Ramon Filipino, Paseo de Roxas Ave., Makati; Oct. 24-31, San Nicolas de Tolentino Church, Congressional Ave., QC.

Meanwhile, the Our Lady of the Rosary from Santiago, Chile, and the Sacred Heart of St. Padre Pio will be visiting Montebook branch along Aguirre St., Forbes, Oct. 16-23.

'Living with the Saints' seminar

The will take place on Oct. 23, 1-6 p.m., at the Resurrection of the Lord Parish Church in BF Parañaque. Speakers are Rep. Rufus Colez on Bill No. 15 focusing on the protection of the unborn, and Fr. Melvin Castro on "Mary and the Saints."

Sponsors are K of C Pagbabalay 7347 (mixed) headed by Grand Knight Sen Larkin, Bishop Reyes Hunting Times led by Tony Medina, the Legion of Mary and Aruna.

Oct. 31 is the feast day of the miraculous Lady of Chanco in Cabalagan, Samar. The church where she is enshrined hosts the nov-

Odon Sabarre conducts dance programs in Leyte

LEYTE GOV. JEROMO "Jun" Petilla, in cooperation with the Department of Education and the mayors of Tanauan (Mayor Augusto Pagaduan), Abuyog (Mayor Loreto Yu) and Javo (Mayor Rolando Dalidio), is sponsoring the free dance programs of well-known ballet dancer and teacher Odon Sabarre.

In these dance programs, talented students from different schools are trained in ballet, jazz, interpretative and folk dances.

Sabarre, the first artist in residence of Region 8, has been dance director of several dance scholarship programs in several towns of Leyte, such as Baybay, Abuyog, Dagami, Kananga, and in Samar like Calbiga, Basey, Catbalogan and Catbalogan City. He is assisted by Pearly Dumlao.

Petilla's advocacy is to promote culture and arts enhancement in the province of Leyte. The dance program was organized and chaired by former Leyte governor and representative and Miss Palo Mayor Remedios "Mahs" Petilla.

Dance classes for the new dance scholarship programs are on Visayas, 9-11 a.m. in Tanauan; 1:30-3 p.m. in Abuyog; and 3:30-5 p.m. in Javo, Leyte.

Dayllist is responsible by OIC in charge director Rosemarie Sandoval Said and is also interested Dandi Apolinario. Over-all program director is Aurora

Reyes Villarente, president of the provincial boosters, cultural and the arts office.

Fundraising event

The Makati Rambler Club (MRC) and The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) present the "10th Festival of Trees, an annual fundraising on Nov. 23, 1 p.m., at Manila Polo Club. It aims to raise funds for the rehabilitation of Manresa Watershed.

This year, the festival tapped some of the country's most creative people to decorate a dining table. Manila Polo Club can hold up to 20 tables in its grand ballroom. At forty-nine participants accepted the challenge to support the worthy cause including Ed Espiritu, Andrea Ramirez, Sonya Garcia, Ruby Diaz Roa, Rene Ormaza, Gregorio Reyes, Jason Benedictos, Maja Ocampo Co, Josephine del Carmen Rose, Flor De Leon, Bobbi Yuzon and Eraldo Ecal, among others.

The event's highlight will be the festival's signature "Mystery Boxes," which contain beautiful gifts priced at no less than P1,000 and are elegantly wrapped for Christmas available for purchase; silent auction with trips to Singapore and Boracay; silent sale with Ben Chan Shoes; and real auction item featuring several nights at the beautiful Chiang Dao Hotel in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with airline tickets for two-one way of "first class."

For more information, call the Festival of Trees Secretariat at 5201741-48, e-mail pbsp@pbsp.org.ph, log on to www.pbsp.org.ph.

Exhibits at PWU

The Philippine Women's University will hold a photo exhibit, "Her Excellency: Filipina Ambassadors at the Forefronts of Diplomacy," featuring lady ambassadors on Oct. 18, 1 p.m., at the Helena Benitez Hall, Taft campus, Manila.

The exhibit is organized by the Make-2 Bachelor School of International Relations and Diplomacy headed by Dean Ambassador Rosario Manalo. PWU board chair and former senator Dr. Helena Z. Benitez, chief executive officer Alfredo E. Pascual and Ambassador Walter McDonald of the European Union will formally open the exhibit.

Part of the program is the oath-taking of officers of the newly created PWU Student Diplomatic Corps.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE
Sex and Manansala /G1

In smartphone wars, a new killer weapon

Nokia is fielding its new, feature-packed N8 to go head-to-head with iPhone4 and Android

By Gibbs Cadiz

REPLACING THE CEO just days before a world confab designed to show off the organization in the best possible light might not be the smartest PR move for a company. But it could also be the best way to jolt itself into a new direction, and signal to the world it is serious about reclaiming lost ground.

Nokia was probably thinking this way when, three days before Nokia World, its annual global conference held in London this year with some 3,000 attendees, the Finnish phone giant abruptly announced that longtime president Olli-Pekka Kallasvuo was stepping down and handing the reins to a new CEO—Stephen Elop of Canada, a former Microsoft executive.

Given the timing of the innovation, the London event turned out, in many ways, to be a reminder to some, a wake-up call to others, not only to rouse the spirits of Nokia's hundreds of thousands of employees and affiliated application developers, retailers, publishers and business partners worldwide, but also to answer skeptics who have, lately, questioned Nokia's ability to continue to deliver trailblazing products and technology in the likes of inroads by Apple and other mobile brands.

The International Herald Tribune has reported that "Nokia's share price has declined more than half since Apple introduced its iPhone in 2007, so it failed to come up with a compelling response to what is now the world's fastest-selling smartphone."

But, while Niklas Savander, Nokia Markets executive vice president, acknowledged in his remarks that "Nokia is going through a tough, challenging period... we're not going to apologize for the fact that we're not Apple or Google or Samsung. We're Nokia!"

Leading players

The company maintains that, despite the iPhone's sky-high popularity and Google's Android platform getting its fair share of users, Nokia's phones and their Symbian OS remain the leading players in the marketplace. Nokia may not be top-of-mind when it comes to trendy smartphones at this time, but it's not about to cede an inch of ground in the phone wars, much less wave the white flag.

"Let's set the record straight," said Savander. "Everyday some 200,000 new Nokia smartphones are bought. That's more units than any other company by far, period. And that's more than the sales of iPhone and Android combined."

"Nokia, not Google, also leads in map navigation via Ovi Maps," he added. "We now have 70 countries covered, in 46 languages. Unlike Google, Ovi even features pedestrian navigation, and it's far less data-hungry because it's optimized for phones."

BUSINESSPHONE /G2

THE NOKIA N8..."a device that can match the iPhone 4 in practically every department," says Kroger, our mobile.com.

In smartphone wars, a new killer weapon

From page H1

Marching the iPhone's glamour lustre of cocaine, or the fresh allure of Android, goes far beyond mere application or impressive sales figures. In the battle for the new mass have-device on the market, Nokia believes it has found its game-changing weapon, its "killer phone," in the N8, a touchscreen marvel designed to match my many well-known rivals, features for features.

The N8, with two other new generation Symbian models, the C6 and the C7, were unveiled at Nokia World and made available for up-close inspection and its nine road-outs at the aptly named Experience Lounge.

A massive hall adjacent to the conference auditorium was reimagined into an exhibit area for a dizzying array of electronic gadgets and cutting-edge applications—all related to Nokia phones and allied products.

To differentiate the N8, Nokia packs it with features that try to do-nix buyers over competitors. It has normally-enhanced iPhone-4 offers a high-definition camera for photos and video, the N8 aims to conclude that with a 12-megapixel camera and make its Dolby.

The N8's HD audio-video capabilities were first demonstrated in style during Saraiadez's speech, when he plugged the phone into the hall's projectors using only a plain HDMI cable. Out came on the huge screen, seconds a preview of the upcoming movie "Avatar." The eye-popping output was indeed hi-def...a feature that was demonstrated again and again at the Experience Lounge, where one area had the N8 hooking into an HD TV with 5.1 speakers.

Important milestone

It's also a mind-taking phone that promises considerable speed and efficiency, even if applications are running simultaneously, powered our Anssi Vanjoki, Nokia Mobile Solutions EVP.

"The fact is, Nokia invests on the smartphone," he said, referring to Nokia's groundbreaking Communicator, released in 1996. "We make it look beautiful, but beautifully designed—and for everyone. Now, the Nokia N8 is an important milestone in smartphones. It's the first to take Symbian to a new level, it's our 'greatest' phone to date because it uses [graphics] and recycled metals, and its HD video and Dolby sound make it an entertainment powerhouse."

And, added Saraiadez, unable to resist, "our phones continue to perform well however you hold them"—a dig at Apple's much-publicized antenna problems with the iPhone 4.

Nokia is further counting on users' extensive embrace of its online portal Ovi (ovi.nokia.com) to differentiate its smartphones. With Ovi, Nokia users can customize their handsets to an amazingly detailed degree, courtesy of the myriad local and global applications available for downloading on the site, or everything from updated movie schedules in Greenbelt, Makati, to finding a quaint stop in London's Leicester Square.

"Ovi is available in over 100 countries, works in over 120 Nokia devices and supports credit card and operator billings (for paid apps downloads)," said Nokia Developer Community VP Ingrassia Boothaki. Nokia has two billion plus developers worldwide, she added, all of them busy at developing ever more intricate, useful applications for mobile devices.

Dozens of those developers were at, as in the London event for the parallel Nokia Developer Summit, at which, as a financial caveat to create the best apps within 24 hours, a Brazilian team won by coming up with Facebook, whatever that looks and unlocks phones by face recognition.

THE EXPERIENCE Lounge at Nokia World, held this year in London

COLORFUL Bought keyboard/trackpad on Nokia phones

Philippine release

The N8 will be available in Philippine stores by the first week of November for a high-end smartphone, it will retail at a surprisingly affordable P32,500 (per online accounts, except).

Its release elsewhere in the world has triggered largely positive buzz online. The popular tech review site Gsmarena.com, for instance, has given the N8 its highest praise: "An absolutely fantastic smartphone. It has everything you could possibly wish for, in bucket loads—camera, web, features, storage, UI [user interface], looks, etc.... In short, if you don't want an iPhone 4, but want a device that can match it in practically every department, the Nokia N8 should be your first port of call."

And, for good measure, it adds the verdict: "Nokia, it seems, is finally beginning to move in the right direction."

That should be not only music to the ears of the Finnish company, but a fair assessment as well. With a brand-new CEO, a new flagship product, and a newfound battle-ready spirit rippling through its ranks, Nokia seems ripe, pure, November's closing words had all the ring of a war cry: "Nokia is ready!"

E-mail jpcalo@inquirer.com.ph; visit www.gilbocalo.blogspot.com

STEP up the show

NIKLAS Savander, Nokia Markets executive vice president, presenting the Nokia N8 to 1,000 attendees of this year's Nokia World

One of Nokia's most powerful women is a Filipina

SHE'S THE only Filipina, and Asian, in the powerhouse sales and marketing team of phone giant Nokia, based in Helsinki, Finland. The Nordic country is so far away from the Philippines, and so cold, that Carol Soriano, 39, says she didn't want to relocate at first, despite the generous offer for her to be part of the top management team at Nokia House, the company's headquarters in Helsinki.

But Anni, says Soriano, she's in a very happy place, and she couldn't have made a better decision in her life.

As head of consumer communications, Soriano oversees the worldwide marketing activities of Nokia.

In the sentral sales and marketing group at Nokia House consisting of eight men and three women, she is the only Asian. The company's management, too, is predominantly male (and Finnish). And Soriano says Nokia itself is a truly global company, with employees from virtually every part of the globe.

"It's a very open, egalitarian workplace, which is reflective of Finnish society as a whole," she says.

Soriano started with Nokia in 2005 as marketing communications manager in its Singapore office. Before that, she was a Lopez Management graduate from Ateneo who wanted to pursue Law. Instead, she ended up teaching Medieval History in the same school while doing advertising work on the side.

After four years of juggling two jobs, So-

CAROL Soriano, Nokia head of consumer communications, based in Helsinki, Finland

riano went into marketing full-time.

When her ad agency sent her to its Singapore office, Soriano became part of the team that handled Nokia, a major client. Soon, impressed with her work, the Finnish company hired Soriano and made her head of marketing for your line of handsets.

In 2006-2008, Soriano took charge of rolling out Nokia's blockbuster N series in the region. It did extremely well, and led to the offer to move to Finland in 2008.

"Before, I was just into implementing marketing programs. Now, I would help create what was being carried out from Finland, such as the N95," the start of the job that awaited her in Helsinki.

In 2008, she became VP for creative excellence, where she had approving power for all the advertising campaigns of Nokia worldwide.

Barely a year later, she was promoted again, as head of global marketing activities. And, just this August, she got a new title: head of consumer communications—both jobs, she explains, "global roles covering activities across all markets."

Safe environment

It took Soriano some effort to adjust to the country. She warmest she weather could manage was 16 degrees Celsius (clear summer) back—and August weather in

ANSWERS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

NEWLY INAUGURATED

BAYPOINTE HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER

Subic Bay Freeport Zone

on 10.10.10

The Founders

Sitting Left to Right: Dr. Alberto Abiang, Mrs. Jeanette Cerene Huang-Pascual, Engr. Genevieve Orillaza, Mr. Ramie Castillo, Secretary Dr. Roberto de Leon, President, Dr. Amado C. Enriquez, Jr. Chairman of the Board, Dr. Felicisimo de Castro, Treasurer Dr. Jewel Manuel.

Standing Left to Right: Dr. Luis Guevara, Dra Leah Palmares-Lim, Dra. Erlinda Lim-Atienza, Dr. Ric Pascual, Dr. Cesar Lim, Dr. Apolinario Tablan, Jr., Dr. Edgardo Borges, Dr. Oscar Imperial, Dr. Wilfredo Santos, Dr. Dennis Delgado, Dr. Rudy Atienza,Jr. Dra Marietta Cunio-Abiang, Dra. Ma. Gloria Tan Gatue-de Castro, Dr. Arturo Arkoncel,III.

From left to right:
Herman T. Gandeza, Dr. Leandro E. Rivera, Dr. Cesar D. Tungo, Dr. Felix P. Salazar, Geronimo P. David, Dra. Marilou Rosero-Bautista, Dra. Marilou Rosero-Enriquez, Dra. Teresita Cunio-David, Dra. Ma. Rhodora R. Garcia-De Leon, Dra. Jessica Rose G. De Leon, Dra. Francesca Rose G. De Leon, Miguel Antonio R. Enriquez, Michael Edward R. Enriquez

THE ARTISTIC team of "The Christmas Ballet Concert" and Ayala Malls' Rowena Tomeldan with the scholar-dancers of Steps Dance Project

Simply exposing the kids to other disciplines makes them 'blossom,' says Sofia Zobel-Elizalde

"Fiesta Christmas," choreographed by Steps Dance Project director James Lubrerta. The music is based on Dyan Castillejo's "Pasko I" and "Pasko II," two award-winning records featuring performances by the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Miguel Master Chorale.

The set and costumes are designed by Ilse Alexandra Gino Gonzales, with lighting by longtime Zobel-Elizalde collaborator Ramon Conoy.

More elaborate

According to Gonzales, the costumes within "more elaborate" than last's used to dining, since they will on for attention in the mall setting. In contrast, Conoy says his task is simple to illuminate the performers. "The moment you notice the lighting, it's wrong."

"Sia's child, I always found 'The Nutcracker' to be magical," says Zobel-Elizalde. "It's universal and easy to understand."

There will be a meet-and-greet with "The Nutcracker" dancers after the one-hour performances, according to Ramona Tomeldan, CEO of Ayala Malls Filipinas Heritage Library also a division of Ayala Foundation Inc., will hold a 30 minute storytelling before the shows.

On Nov. 20-21, the ballet concert will move on to Glorietta, then Alabang Town Center (Dec. 4-5), Trinoma (Dec. 11-12) and, finally, Marquee Nemagana (Dec. 18-19). All performances are free to the public.

Ballet scholars dance 'The Nutcracker' at the mall

By Gracie V. Morit

EXACT THIS year, three may would, class pianist Cecile Licad. For Christmas, it's the ballerinas who are taking over the malls.

Beginning Nov. 6, Ayala Malls continues its 2010 Steps Filipino program with a ballet concert tour in five of its malls through out the holiday season.

Sofia Zobel-Elizalde's Steps Dance Studio's Steps Dance Project commences its performances of excerpts from the famous Tchaikovsky ballet "The Nutcracker" and "Fiesta Christmas," a song and dance depiction of the country's most loved holiday traditions, at Glorietta 4 on Nov. 6-7.

The project is in line with Steps Filipino's thrust to bring arts, music and dance to the people, instead of the other way around. The mall is seen very much a part of urban Filipino lifestyle, and Ayala is taking advantage of this by using its malls as venues for cultural performances.

Scholars

What makes the ballet concert special, according to Steps founder and director Zobel-Elizalde, is that the studio's scholars will be performing. While Steps' dancers have performed in a mall venue before, this is the first time that she's using only the scholars.

The dance school, now going on its 15th year, has 68 scholars under the Steps Scholarship Foundation, 30 of them from Center (Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education). Some of Steps' scholars have gone on to become professional dancers abroad, she says.

The goal of the foundation "isn't to make them (scholars) all (professional) dancers," Zobel-Elizalde notes. Simply exposing the kids to other disciplines and making them appreciate the art of dance makes them "blossom," she says.

The foundation raises funds for the scholarship performances like the studio-built ballet concert under the Steps Dance Project. (Steps Dance Studio is at C-3 Building C, Eastern Plaza, 2216 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. Call 7572894, 0905-3227368; e-mail zobelann@stepsdancestudio.ph).

ZOBEL-ELIZALDE joined brass lady with her "dream team": Jeffrey Espejo, Katrich Carey, James Lubertzo and Gino Gonzales with Ayala Malls Group VP and CDO Rowena Tomeldan (second from left)

THE CHARGE! dancers, seen here in "The Nutcracker"

Excerpts

In a media preview of the Christmas show this week, the Steps dancers performed excerpts from "The Nutcracker"—the Sugar Plum Fairy solo and the Chinese dance.

Jeffrey Espejo, a former guest ballet master of Ballet Philippines and principal dancer of Ballet Manila, is re-staging "The Nutcracker."

The dancers also performed repertoire from

STEPS Dance Studio director Sofia Zobel-Elizalde with dancers

One of Nokia's most powerful women is a Filipina

From page B1

...do as she's too," she says.

The Filipino community is also small, around 100 people.

"But when you move there, that's where you find out what's good about it," she says. "For one, it's a very safe environment. Two, it has the highest standard of education in the world."

Soriano and her Filipino husband (who relocated with her and works with a Finnish advertising firm) have a seven-year-old son. "Their school days are short. The emphasis is on discovery," says Soriano. "When kids go to school, they take off their shoes! The idea is to make them relax."

Soriano says the country's high level of public safety also allows her greater freedom in rearing her kid. "In a Manila mall, truthfully, I'd never be able to let go of my son. But there, I feel safe about letting him walk to a neighbor's house to play, and he asks for three hours."

A democratic socialist country, "Finland is the shorter I've seen in a classless society," says Soriano. "There are no gated communities. What's amazing is that, as long as you do well, you become like the rest—entitled to all the privileges of the others. After, in my case, most Finns don't know much about the Philippines, except the fact that the first Miss Universe (Apoi Rosario) married a Filipino. As there are no preconceived notions and stereotypes about my country and about me. Unlike, say in Singapore, where as native born Singaporean Chinese, I'm automatically expected to be good in math."

Soriano is also a breastfeeding advocate, and successful on set, sorta people still think you're the woman that cleans their toilets."

High taxes

Finland levies some of the highest taxes in the world—up to 60 percent, depending on salary level—but the system supports universal health care and education, among other citizen comforts, and a functioning society that works hard to erase class inequalities.

"You can even find out the compensation of Nokia's top executives and those in other companies," says Soriano, laughing. "It's published online, down to the last Euro."

Such transparency not only discourages citizens from committing graft, for instance, or evading tax obligations. Soriano cites the case of a top Nokia executive who was caught speeding and fined the jaw-dropping sum of 120,000 Euros (about P8.4 million). The amount was based on a percentage of his published annual salary, which the traffic cop could access right there on the street.

"It's 120,000 Euros!," exclaims Soriano. "For it teaches you to follow the law."

Now post-natal, her Helsinki stay and Soriano says it's hard at this point to say if she'll want to move back to Manila. She does try to visit family and kin at least once a year, but, at the pain it, with striking environment. "I could never imagine getting to this point. I thought I would be a lawyer. But this is nice work to have, and not a lot of people get this kind of opportunity (to begin 35 plus at some more years). I've a good job so I."

—Gilda Cadiz

Sunday LifeStyle

Sharing honors in ribbon-cutting ceremony were (L-R): Calamba City Mayor Joaquin Chipeco Jr., SM Prime Holdings Pres. Hans T. Sy, San Pablo Bishop Leo Drona, Hon. Felicidad Sy, Congressman Jonvic Mari Chipeco, and Calamba Vice Mayor Severino Lajara during the blessing of SM City Calamba.

SM City Calamba, SM's 39th mall, is now open.

SM CITY CALAMBA OPENING DRAWS THOUSANDS OF SHOPPERS

They came, they saw and they shopped. Prime Inquirer Inc. Pres. Hans T. Sy, Bishop Leo Drona, Calamba City Mayor Joaquin Chipeco Jr. and Vice Mayor Severino Lajara during the blessing of SM City Calamba.

Joint venture Calamba Mayor Joaquin Chipeco Jr. and SM Prime Holdings President Hans T. Sy in the SM tradition, opened the mall's doors to the first wave of shoppers, quickly packed the mall—shopping, eating at the food outlets and enjoying entertainment for with the rain drenched streets.

Strategically located in a 10...

...along the Manila-South Luzon Expressway (...

...in City, SM City Calamba is SM Prime Holdings' 39th mall. It is SM's third mall in Laguna, the first being SM City Santa Rosa which opened on February 17, 2006 and the second SM City San Pablo, which opened last April/May 7.

The 4th, 5-hectare mall is SM's...

...commitment to Calamba as well as nearby towns as Majayjay, Rizal, Cabuyao, and Los Baños in Laguna as well as Nasugbu in Batangas.

With its modern design blending simple, solid forms elaborated together for seamless "look opened" the mall is envisioned to be a landmark in the area. Four brightly colored towers provides dramatic and accent of almost every white + gray and subtle geometric pattern provides texture and variety to the remainder of the center. Signage elements are gracefully integrated into the overall design to maintain a cohesive and clutter-free look. Lighting not only provides safety and convenience for shoppers, but also accentuates the bright colors of the exterior through the use of cutting edge, ordered LEDs.

Inside the mall, colors in the exterior are brought...

...to give a seamless design and enhance the shopping experience. Navigating around the mall is made up of retail shops and restaurants are located for convenient visibility and access. Escalators are strategically and prominently located around and at the center to encourage free flow of customers and ensure the best exposure for all shops, restaurants, and stores.

SM City Calamba brings the SM experience down to Batas with over 150 shops, restaurants, and service stores set to its open arrivals: the SM Department Store, which has become part of the lives of many Filipinos, and the SM Supermarket, which brings fresh products and groceries like bakeries. Fruits and top brand shopping from wide selection of fashions, SM Appliance Center, ACE Hardware, and We Optometrist, as well as boutiques like Watsons and Hush, Bench, and Shoppers.

Eating out options include the SM Food Court, where one can get good food... fast, as well as fast food chains like Jollibee, Mang Inasal, Yellow Cab, and Starbucks. The SM Cinema, as well as Fun's World and Shockwaves will provide fun for the whole family, while Cassidy Gallery, Cat's Paws & Paws Accessories will pamper shoppers.

SM City Calamba's strategic location - it is easily transport hundreds and 10 minutes away from Calamba, ensuring makes the mall accessible to shoppers. For customer convenience, the mall has 10...

...parking slots and 800 slots for motorcycle parking, as well as a jeepney terminal with 44 slots and a bus terminal with 10 slots.

With its timely theme "Inspiring Beyond Convenience and Fashion", Calamba City Mayor is considered to be a central point in Laguna and an important area...

...about how 514,000 residents, as well as a high-daytime transient population provided by 11 industrial estates, 5 municipalities, 16 villages and universities, 7 hospitals, and numerous of malls in...

SM City Calamba's design team includes Design Associates, Mall Designer, Arnie Dela Cruz and Associates, Architects Del Acosta and Associates, Project Manager, and Total Solution City Builders, General Contractor.

Actor SM In addition, SM Prime Holdings President Ms. Hans Sy and Calamba City Mayor Joaquin Chipeco Jr. open the door to the first wave of the customers during the SM City Calamba Opening Day.

SM Prime Holdings President Ms. Hans Sy happily waves the hand with the crowd during SM City Calamba Opening day.

Thousands of customers packed at SM City Calamba during its opening day.

BEDTIME WITH BABY AT BABY COMPANY

FARM FRIENDS. The Bedtime Baby bedding set features designs of baby's favorite farmyard animals.

LITTLE SAILOR. Nautical Mickey Mouse beddings by Disney Baby for the boys.

BABY CHIC. Your little princess will have sweet dreams on this White Tiger bedding set by Fisher Price.

BABY COMPANY
THE BABY SPECIALIST

New Beddings for Baby

White Tiger

Cotton 'n Candies

Farm Friends

Safari Friends

Classic Pooh

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

With its young, growing population, almost half of which are under the age of twenty, there's a lot of baby love in Colombo City.

And the good news is that Baby Company, the Baby Specialist, has a new, exclusive collection of beddings for little ones, which range from six piece sets to separates.

Bed linens, after all, are often closest to baby's skin, and choosing the right stuff is important so they can sleep well in comfort. Cribs and crib beddings, on the other hand, often serve as a nursery's centerpiece, and the design of the bed linens helps create the room's mood and theme.

Baby Company's bed linen collection is available in eye-catching designs, from well-loved cartoon characters and favorite animals; to car and train designs; and other colorful prints. These are made with comfortable and hypo-allergenic materials by trusted brands like Bedtime Baby, Disney Baby, Cuddle for Baby, Fisher Price, and Oliver.

Visit Baby Company at the Second Floor of the SM Department Store in the newly opened SM City Colombo.

Baby Company outlets are located in all SM Department stores and at specialty stores at The Podium, Power Plant Mall, and the Annex at SM City North EDSA. Find us on Facebook and visit our website at www.babycompany.com.ph.

*Availability of products may vary per branch.

JUNGLE TALES. Create a safari-themed nursery room with Cuddle for Baby's 6-piece Cappuccino Safari Bedding Set. Complete the look with textured animal paintings and nature-inspired furniture.

SEA BABIES. Let baby go on an aquatic adventure with this Sea World bedding set by Oliver.

JUNIOR JUNCTION. Start your engines for bedtime fun with Cars by Disney Baby linens.

LIVING GREEN, LIVING BEAUTIFULLY AT SM HOMEWORLD

Living the good life also means healthy living at SM Homeworld. And being used to the fresh air, open spaces, and lush plants and trees in the province, Calamba residents will be happy to know that SM Homeworld has many of the things you will need to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.

With its collection of high quality and elegantly designed eco-friendly cookware as well as bed linen with anti-bacteria and dust mite features, it is easy for you to create a healthy and happy home environment for your family with SM Homeworld.

COOKING GREEN WITH NEOFLAM

Eating healthy is part of the modern lifestyle, and we are encouraged to choose only the freshest ingredients, get to know more about the food we eat, and read labels when we do our grocery shopping.

Choosing the right cookware is another way to healthy living. And it begins with selecting the right pots and pans that not only help you prepare delicious meals, but are also free of toxins and can help save time and energy.

The good news is that with today's technological advances, cooking green is possible. And SM Homeworld shows us the way with its Neoflam line.

Neoflam brings a healthy and environmentally friendly way of cooking with its Ecolon coating, which is made from the most advanced ceramic technology that is completely PTFE and PFOA free. Made from natural non-toxic materials, Ecolon is non-harmful to the human body, and is environmentally friendly with reduced CO2 emission.

With Ecolon coated cookware, one can use less energy and achieve better cooking time. It is also a better conductor and has better heat transfer properties. With its ability to reflect more Long Wave infrared rays, one can cook food without burning the outside. You can also cook in style with Neoflam's vibrantly colored cookware in yellow, green, and orange.

Neoflam cookware - grill pans, casseroles, saucepans, frying pans, and woks - are available at the Homeworld Department of selected SM Department Stores, including the newly opened store at SM City Calamba.

1. Enjoy cooking green with Neoflam's yellow square shaped Grill Pan with Ecolon coating.
2. Cook the healthy way with this green PTFE and PFOA-free Neoflam non-stick Fry Pan.
3. Ecolon coated yellow Sauce Pan with glass lid by Neoflam.
4. Neoflam red Casserole with glass lid and ecolon coating does not release any toxic fumes even when you cook in a high temperature.
5. Use less energy and achieve faster cooking times with this orange Low Casserole with glass lid by Neoflam.

LUXE AND ELEGANT BEDDINGS

NEW Akemi Autograph Acacia Collection is made from 100% cotton sateen in 340 thread count.

With its Akemi and Ultima bed linen collections, SM Homeworld brings luxury and elegance to your bedroom.

Akemi's Autograph Collection is designed to capture timeless luxury and comfort with 100% cotton sateen in 360 thread counts. Its fits and lgie-sicas designs are not only eyecatching, but will also give you that much needed luxury and comfort after a busy day at the office.

The Ultima collection, on the other hand, gives ultimate comfort with bed linens with a satin weave and a gentle, silky sheen. The Ultima Linen Art line in cotton sateen and the Ultima Elegance collection in 100% pure cotton are both made with high thread count that softly touches your skin.

The Akemi and Ultima collections are available in the Homeworld Department of selected SM Department Stores including the newly opened store in SM City Calamba.

Geometric patterns play in this black and white Magnolia comforter by Ultima Linen Art made from 100% cotton sateen in 300 thread count.

Timeless beauty captured in this black and white floral graphic designed Ignesia Akemi Autograph Acacia Collection.

Geometric inspired green floral by designed 4 piece set by Ultima's Elegance collection. Set includes a duvet cover, fitted sheet and 2 pillow shams.

ACE HARDWARE OPENS AT SM CITY CALAMBA

We're Now Fifty Stores and Counting!

ACE Hardware, one of the leading hardware stores in the United States opens its 50th branch in the Philippines today at SM City Calamba!

Located at the mall's Second Floor, the more than 600 hundred square meter store is a one stop shop for the latest home improvement solutions. It also offers a wide array of products with cutting edge technology for home construction and renovations.

Since it opened its first Philippine franchise store at SM Southmall in 1987, ACE Hardware has grown to become one of the country's leading hardware stores. And it now has 50 stores to serve you better!

As The Helpful Place, ACE Hardware has become a haven for home improvement enthusiasts with its exciting selection of power tools, paints and varnishes, electrical and plumbing equipment, hardware and building materials, and outdoor equipment.

It also has exclusive products like the lead free and odorless ACE Paints with an automated color matching program, which allow you to choose from over 2,000 colors to create the right shade and finish for your home.

ACE Hardware also has a per section for kids and animal lover, and a Lawn and Garden section that provides your gardening and landscaping needs.

The ACE Hardware store at SM City Calamba is a one-stop shop for the latest home improvement solutions.

(L-R) ACE Hardware Philippines President Johnny Cobankiat's son John Wesley, Vice President Commander Ronal Mallorca Teodoro (Ret.) A. De Mesa Jr., President of Globe International Distribution Center Inc. Bonifacio Sy Jr. and ACE Hardware Philippines President Johnny Cobankiat lead the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Apart from the enjoying the DIY fun, ACE Hardware customers in SM City Calamba can also take part in a raffle promotion sponsored by Firefly. Every P500 single or accumulated purchase at the new store until November 30 entitles one to a raffle coupon and a chance to win one of 50 Mountain Bikes.

Check out the newly opened ACE Hardware store at the Second Floor of SM City Calamba. Other ACE stores are located at SM Makati, SM Cubao, SM Hypermarket in Makati, Megamall in the Mall in Cabanatuan, and in SM Supermalls nationwide. You may also visit ACE Builders Centers at SM City North EDSA, SM City Fairview, and SM City Pampanga, and our website at www.acehardware.ph.

ACE Hardware has over 2000 colors to choose from and an automated matching program to create the right color for your home.

ACE bathroom fixtures provide total comfort.

Hand tools for home improvement enthusiasts.

Door handles in different designs and finishes.

A wide selection of car care products.

SM APPLIANCE CENTER OPENS AT SM CITY CALAMBA

SM Appliance Center opened its 50th branch last October 15, 2010 at the Second Floor of SM City Calamba.

The 500 square meter store offers a wide range of tech savvy products that are the hallmarks of gracious living. These include high performance home entertainment system, the top brands in audio-video equipment, appliances for the home and kitchen, and the latest electronic gadgets. Modern interiors and different themed sections make shopping a breeze at the new SM Appliance Center store in Calamba.

With Its Our Name is Your Guarantee tagline, SM Appliance Center has brought comfort, convenience, and great family entertainment to many homes in the Philippines since the mid-90's. With the opening of the Calamba outlet, it now has fifty stores and is still growing.

Over the years, the SM Appliance Center lived up to its commitment to provide quality home appliances and superb customer service. At SM Appliance Center, you have the assurance of knowing that you're getting the best products that your money can buy. You can also be assured of prompt and friendly after-sales service through closer coordination with suppliers.

With the holidays just around the corner, SM Appliance Center is a great destination for value-for-money shoppers. It not only has some of the best brands at affordable prices and terms, but also exciting in-store promotions.

Create a new and exciting lifestyle for your family with smart shopping at the newly opened SM Appliance Center store located at the Second Floor of SM City Calamba.

SM Appliance Center stores are conveniently located at SM Makati, SM Cubao, Walter in Greenhills Shopping Center, Harrison Plaza, Rockwell, Megacenter The Mall and all all SM Supermalls nationwide. If you wish to shop on-line, visit our website at www.smappliance.com

SM Appliance Center offers the widest selection of the latest home entertainment systems, home appliances and electronic gadgets.

The newly opened SM Appliance Center is located on Second Floor of SM City Calamba.

An exciting selection of Playstation systems.

Prepare meals for your family with these Microwave ovens.

These air conditioners will keep your home cool and refreshed.

Enjoy watching your favorite movies with these fancy television sets.

Stylish La Germania cooking line.

Create your own family home entertainment with these LCD TVs.

Keep your food always fresh and enjoy with these line of refrigerators.

SHOP, WIN, AND PLAY WINNER GOES HOME WITH AN URVAN VAN

Nissan Urvan from Universal Motors Corporation

Ray Gayoll Saavedra was the lucky winner of Nissan Urvan in SM Appliance Center's recent Shop, Win, and Play promotion. Ray, who shopped for gadgets at the SM Appliance Center outlet in was one of 25 winners of Krishna Rosasala in the promotion's preliminary draws.

Out of the 25 winners, 12 customers who used their SM Express Credit Cards were qualified to join the Promo-Play-off and had a chance of winning a Nissan Urvan.

It was a long way from Ray's hometown of Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte to the play-off held at the SM Megamall Event Center. But with lots of luck and a positive attitude, Ray went on to shine in the play-off wherein the twelve contenders were asked to choose boxes, which would either give them a token from SM Credit Card and leave the game or prompt them to move on to the next level. Ray emerged the winner after three elimination rounds, and went home with a brand-new Nissan Urvan.

The Shop, Win, and Play promotion was a joint project of SM Appliance Center with SM Express Credit Cards.

Just like Ray, shoppers at the newly opened SM Appliance Center at SM City Calamba can look forward to fun promotions and a chance to win exciting prizes.

At the awarding ceremony (L-R) Jennifer Hubilla, SM Appliance Center Area Manager, Nissan Urvan winner Ray Gayoll Saavedra and SM Appliance Center Area Manager Roderick "Rodel" Valdez.

A New Shopping Destination In Calamba

Calamba Vice Mayor Sarahlee Lajara (left from left) and Calamba Congressman Justin Marc Chipeco (3rd from left) were the guest of honor during the recent opening of SM Calamba Department Store. They were welcomed by SM Prime's President Hans T. Sy (5th from left) and SM Dept. Store EVP for Operations Jorge T. Mendiola (left).

The SM Department Store in Calamba welcomes shoppers with its new SM Basmove signage leading shoppers to the store's upscale interiors and great merchandise mix.

Residence and out of town visitors of Calamba can now enjoy the new one-stop shopping excitement that SM brings with the opening of a new SM Department Store branch at SM City Calamba.

The 15, 515 square meter store is the 28th branch in the SM Department Store chain and the third in Laguna. It is SM City Sta Rosa's major anchor, and occupies two levels in the mall.

Combining great design and gifted retail, the store exudes a contemporary look with the use of trendy, vibrant colors and sleek modern lines. A new doorman type SM signage at the store's entrance welcomes shoppers, leading them to a sophisticated and upscale store.

Dolphina and creative merchandise displays lead customers to the areas they want to shop. The specially-lighting used to highlight merchandise display, and clean lines keep the store's overall design concept simple and focused on what shoppers really want - stylish fashion at affordable prices. This is what models Jose Sanchez, Eric Abaad, Lualre Pedrosita and Kristina Brix demonstrated when they visited the store.

The First Level showcases the latest trends in clothes and accessories for men, ladies, and teens. There is also much to discover at the Beauty, as well as Stationery and Supplies section in the same level. Decorative wall fixtures and wall display panels in different patterns highlight the area. Shoppers are guided with colors in different areas. Blue and black dominates the men's section, while neutral tones with orange, yellow and coral accent for the ladies section.

The Second Level is where one can find great buys for the home, as well as clothes, accessories and toys for kids and infants. Stylish shoes and bags are also beautifully showcased in this level. Kultura Filipino, a place where to shop souvenirs, fashion accessories, home decor made from indigenous materials and other uniquely Filipino novelties are also located in this level. A play on colors distinguishes the different section - bright yellow, orange blue and pink as well as pastel colors for kids; pink for the shoes and bags section; neutral tones of beach, dark brown add a touch of green at the home section.

Calamba residents will not only enjoy the great finds at the store, but also the services that go beyond shopping. While shopping at SM, they can also pay their bills, exchange foreign currency, and avail of SKO Remit services all in one stop.

The best part is that every P1,000 purchase at the SM Department Store in SM City Calamba entitles one to a raffle coupon and a chance to win a Toyota Qi Grandia. Just in time for your Christmas shopping, the promo ends on December 31, 2010.

Model Jose Sanchez checks out the swimwear at the Men's Accessories Department.

Model Eric Abaad takes time out at the cashier's counter at the Men's Accessories Department.

Kristina Brix was amazed at the stylish collection of Parisian shoes in the store.

Model Nadine Wheeler tried on girly collection of clothes at the Girl's Semi Wear Department.

Model Lualre Pedrosita at the Ladies Accessories Department.

The white Parisian bag is Kristine Brix' choice pick from SM.

What's in Store

The Circa Catarina Section at the Ladies Wear Department.

Trendy clothes at the Girls Teens Wear Department.

The Innovations WWW at the Ladies Accessories Department.

Cool accessories at the Men's Accessories department.

Global and International brands at the Branded Accessories department.

This elegant floral display enhanced the upscale look of the store.

The iconic Parisian shoe brand goes to Calamba.

Stylish Parisian Bags.

The Men's Shoes Department.

The Homewerld Department

Amazing fun for kids at Rio Kingdom Express.

Baby Co., The Baby Specialist

Delicious chocolates and treats at the Snack Exchange.

Kultura Filipino offers the best of the Philippines.

SM offers beauty products at the Beauty by SM Department.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto G. Velarde

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Justin Bieber launches new polish line

LOS ANGELES—Teen idol Justin Bieber is launching a line of nail polish inspired by his biggest music hits, nail care company OPI said on Monday. With shades like One Less Lonely Girl (lavender), Pitbull Possession (Purple Lipstick), Give Me Everything (silver) and Mr. + Miss (dark blue), the first six colors in the line by Nicole by OPI will be sold exclusively through 464 Mart retail stores in December 2010. Reuters

LOS ANGELES—"I still would like to meet him now more just out of interest because I spent so much time thinking about him," Jesse Eisenberg said about Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg when he confirms to great acclaim, with echos of Albert Ayler's intonation, in "The Social Network."

With David Fincher directing from Aaron Sorkin's screenplay, and with a staggering 99 takes done for the much-talked-about five-minute opening scene in which Zuckerberg gets dumped by his girlfriend, "The Social Network" is a must-see film. Andrew Garfield, Justin Timberlake, Armie Hammer and Max Minghella provide solid acting support.

Eisenberg, boyish-looking at 27, gained critics' notice when he appeared in "The Squid and the Whale." He sat down for an interview at the Harvard Club in New York.

Would it matter if you had access to Mark Zuckerberg?

I don't know. ... I still would like to meet him now, more just out of interest because I spent so much time thinking about him. I tried to imagine what he would think of the movie. I can only imagine that it's a little uncomfortable to have a movie made about stuff you did when you were 19 and except birth when you were 23. So I don't suppose he'll see the movie.

I spent six months, 14 hours a day thinking about this character, trying to not only understand his behavior but ultimately sympathize with him. I have a unique affection for this character even though there may be a variety of reactions to him.

In your research, what impressed you the most about Mark?

How driven he is by things other than his own personal gain. When you think about somebody who is not only the youngest billionaire in the world but who has created a site that seems to encourage us to all look [naven], it wouldn't seem that the person who created it would be so outward looking. That the person who created it would think so exclusively [one] looking his idol and friends in the process. ... [He] refers his separation with Jenn Parker at the end of the movie.

Do you see Napster founder Sean Parker or anyone like people that Mark allegedly betrayed?

I don't see it as a betrayal ... I think when Mark met Sean, who Justin Timberlake plays, he saw the future of his company, where it needs to go. So I don't think he's looking at it to get personally wealthy ... but for the company to grow in the right way. I view this character as completely selfless.

The real pay after securing millions and millions of dollars, was sleeping on a mattress in a tiny apartment. That's what's so fascinating. He is in it totally for something other than himself. The fact that he made a billion dollars is a complete accidental byproduct because his main goal in the success of the site.

How has your life changed? Six years ago, you were a struggling actor.

And now I'm a billionaire (laughter). I wish my life has changed because my apartment still smells bad. I wish my life has changed more because I'd be able to sleep at night or to get a new place and six bedrooms. I have cats who don't understand. They think the litter box is for decoration or something. They think it's like the couch, like it's just another place to sit.

How socially adept are you, especially in getting signatures?

ACTOR'S #

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Scene stealer to upstage celebrity's wedding

By the Entertainment staff

RUSHES SUNDAY

FRIENDS Of Popular Celebrity say upset that Dunkirk-overall Student is planning to upstage the former on her wedding day.

One of the likes, CE set a big event in the same month.

Concerned, pub insist Ce should give way and resist stealing the limelight from PC.

But Bea agrees CE has recently gained a nasty reputation to steal thunder and throw

POWER PLANT
CINEMAS
THE TOWN - RED
12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:25
RED - PG13
10:30, 1:00, 5:10, 8:00, 10:35
THE OTHER GUYS - PG13
1:10, 3:35, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
THE HOLE (In 3D) - PG13
12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
THE HOLE - PG13
1:20, 3:45, 8:05, 8:05, 10:15
EAT, PRAY, LOVE - PG13
11:40, 2:25, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35
MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Scene stealer to upstage celebrity's wedding

Previous p1

her parents. Or should just bear in mind that her sweetheart is a friend of PCs.

Culprit or victim?

Studios assisted an e-mail warning guys about a certain Hawaiian Model who is alleged to be a danger to the community.

The ripper turns out to involve HIV of a number of sins—from spreading a sexually transmitted disease to luring the accomplice of a kidnap-for-ransom gang.

HIV also has a sex video in the offing, according to the source who offered photos but most explicit ones at event and Richard Dixon Seychrest at best.

The stolen video would allegedly make Hayden Kho look like a choir boy.

Is HIV a baneful criminal or just a victim of cyber slander?

Rascal boy

Speaking of sextings, Tokwa Mariquez would like to alert people to be wary of a certain rascal boy who has run away with her money.

TM said she trusted EB when she lent him P30,000—which he supposedly needed for a small business. He also promised to repay her in a month's time.

But TM complained that it's been a year since EB has been paying her the runaround. "I wonder how many people he has duped aside from me? He even had the gall to issue a bouncing check!"

EB is said to be working in the Philippine Management Dept. of Grids 7.

Faking readiness?

Gilbert Cimarron Actor left out a few friends and colleagues either stunned or worried.

GA has been seen in public leaving in a bizarre manner.

GA would arrive at gatherings disheveled, would mumble incoherently or rage loudly against unseen enemies.

Concerned peers drank their heads and surmised GA was going bonkers.

An Observant Groucher, however, noticed that even though GA wore dirty clothes, his fingernails were nicely clipped and his hair smelled of shampoo.

"GA had time to groom himself," OC noted. "I don't think he's going crazy. Maybe it's all part of an acting exercise."

Demise of 'Idol'

ABS-CBN's sensitive "Idol" will

MARINE Hayden

IZA Calzado

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PIRANHA 3D
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WHEN THE TOP COPS SMOKE...
THEIR ONLY HOPE IS...
THE OTHER GUYS
NOW SHOWING

IZA CALZADO LOVI POE MARICAR REYES
JOEM BASCON JANUS DEL PRADO MEGAN YOUNG MO TWISTER JANUS AQUINO SARAH LAHBATI
and GABBY CONCEPCION
Lang bahay.
Lang meron ang nakatira.
Pilong tao ang magpapatigil ng kanilang buhay laban sa mga espiritu ng
WHITE HOUSE
A film by Topel Lee
with ANGEL JACOB RICHARD QUAN LUI VILLAFUZ JOEY PARAS
OPENS OCTOBER 20
MALL TOURS
PREMIERE NIGHT

Greenbelt
Glorietta
Ayala Cinemas
Power Plant Mall
Rockwell
Ayala Malls Cinemas
Greenbelt 3
Glorietta 4
3D
PLATINUM CINEMA
THE HOLE
THE TOWN
THE OTHER GUY
PETRANG KABAYO
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2010

Entertainment

ANGEL Espinosa

DIVINA Zamora

KIM Chiu

...soon end its short run.

A lot of ink has been spilled about the summer of its discontents. (It originally had a 10-week run, but it was announced that it would wrap up on Oct. 22 after eight on Sunday.)

It was a shocking, scandalizing flop. It had been hyped as a local version of the worldbeater hit "Glee."

The official word from the Kapamilya station is that "time, duration and schedule constraints" spelled the show's doom. Rights to each song specifications on the show's cost a bundle, and are limited.

Also, it didn't help that the show had been struggling in the ratings game.

Scent of a scandal

Here's to a whiff of notoriety.

Controversial director and videographer Hayden Kho was reportedly asked by a Pasig-based perfume company to endorse its line of fragrances.

The name of the scent? Hayden, what else.

Perhaps the brand name "Hayden" was already taken.

Stylish Awards

Star Studio Magazine celebrated its 10th anniversary by holding the first Star Studio Celebrity Style Awards.

There were three sets of winners chosen for the People's Choice, Technical and Celebrity awards.

Curiously, some categories were quite unique. Agot Isidro winning as Most Stylish Homemaker (for "Tipong Pinoy Pakasan"), and Vhong Navarro as Most Stylish Comedian.

Lucy Torres-Gomez was named the male Celebrity Style Icon.

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in Inquirer tabloid Bandera last week. (And why we are myself, if we are honest.)

• Jennylyn Mercado/Alfred Vargas may break-up (Cosby Linear)

• Baby son makalas ang "Yummy Babaylan," Vice Ganda ang unang sa MMFF (At Senate Wonders says, "Very supportive!")

• Andi Eigenmann, dinali ang pamamalpak ang pole dancing!

• Dimples Romana sa audit ala na Hukbun, Da Bomb jackpot Jay Sonza Jumoon! (Hahang kapasi!)

• Gabby Concepcion, hindi na mad marinduhan (Hindi ngu!)

• Kim Chiu: Hindi ako Judas! (Sino ka, unay tiny!)

• Ina Calimoso, sa labasak?

• Jovit Baldivino pasiw gumuhit ang mukha (Hindi bigay.)

• Elmo Bosita, hoy Pacific, pangit ang sarsuwela (Sa CR ka na sana!)

• Vhong Cameron Mc Mir kinipuwesto nawawalang sandata! (Mga pumipiglas!)

• Elmo Bosita inalay-alay si Ai Ai (Sino?Ano

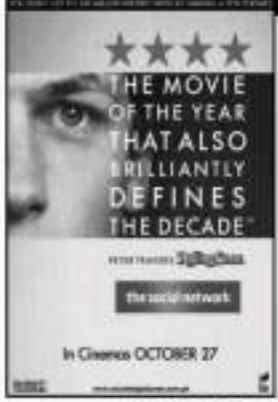
• Jake Vargas-Cruz namalat ang ibaba Magkapa!

• Edu Manzano, Dominic Ochoa DPA magsasabak?

SM CINEMA

visit: www.smcinema.com

SNEAK PREVIEW!



Be the first to watch the SNEAK PREVIEW of the SOCIAL NETWORK at participating SM Cinemas on Oct 18 and 19, 2010 at regular ticket prices.

SM North Edsa, SM Fairview, SM Marikina, SM Megamall, SM Mall of Asia, SM Manila, SM San Lazaro, SM Sta. Mesa, SM Southmall, SM Bacoor, SM Pampanga, SM Clark

Watch the movie at SM Cinema Megamall on Oct 18 and SM Mall of Asia on Oct 19 and get a chance to win Globe Tattoo Internet Kits and other prizes!

For more information: Log on to www.smcinema.com

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I Love... Shop — Oct 16, 2010 10&12pm — Mother Ilee
Money Magnet — Oct 16, 2010 — SM
The SAMARAN — Oct 17, 2010 6&10pm — PARKSON Grand Theater
Khoung Feat. Mac J — Oct 23, 2010, 6&10pm — Metro Square Bay
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- Have you ever noticed furniture out of place?
- Have you heard unexplained noises in the night?
- Have you ever closed a door only to find it open the next time you walk by it?
- Do you see movement out of the corner of your eye that is not there when you look directly at the area?
- Have you ever smelled perfume or some other scent when no one near you is wearing it?

PDI's NUT is CMMA Hall of Famer

Torre's columns, Viewfinder, has won three times

PHILSTAR Daily Inquirer's resident entertainment critic Nestor U. Torre has been honored as the Hall of Fame at the 42nd Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) held Wednesday at the UST Medicine Auditorium. He has won for Best Entertainment Column (Viewfinder) three times.

The CMMA is a yearly distinction given to the best values-oriented work in modern communications, radio, print, television, cinema, music, the Internet and advertising. The following is the complete list of winners:

Print

Best Cover Story: "My Favorite Christmas," Noel De Leon, Pandasan Magazine; Best Investigative Report: "UPW in Crisis: Peril or Peril, Flavor or Flavor," Cherry Ann T. Lita, Sun Star Cebu; Best Special Features: "Budum, Cuty-Ho: ASS-CON Commemorative Special," Ernie L. Lopez, ASD-CBN Publishing Inc.; Best Children's Magazine: "Salve Jesus Magazine," Communication Foundation for Asia; Best Youth Magazine: "Gospel Kotoba Magazine," Communication Foundation for Asia; Best Local Community Newspaper: "The Windhover," The Philippine Jesuit Magazine," The Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus; Best Entertainment Columns: "Between The Lines," "Forward O Soldiers, GIH, Heart In Life Magazine (Soul Sister Coverage: "Cory Aquino Death and Funeral," Beverly T. Natividad, Christine Avendaño, Mita Catherine Calleja, JUDay, Shawn Lopez, Antonette T. Taguiwalo

ABOVE Bloomberg (far left) talks about portraying Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg in "The Social Network," the year's best-reviewed film.

Actor's status . . .

I have a household of cats so you could imagine how much worries like that. Yes, I have a long-time girlfriend. She appreciates how socially adept I am, not because it means that we'll forever remain fabulous and unlovelier.

Do you see Facebook as causing us to be even more isolated because there's less actual interaction?

I would argue that it doesn't make us less interactive personally. When I was in high school, I would come home from school, eat lunch/dinner and watch "Family Feud" by myself. My sister is 10 years younger than me. She comes home from school and is interacting with her friends on Facebook. Although it's less personal than being actually physically together, it brings us together in a different way.

Similarly, for Mark in the movie, he has a great difficulty connecting with other people. Through Facebook, he's able to find something that makes him feel a little bit more comfortable. Does it satisfy him in the end of the movie? I don't think so, but it has enabled a lot of other people—500 million.

It's been said that only someone who felt so isolated or socially awkward could come up with something like Facebook.

My character has an incredibly keen insight into how others react because he always watched other people interacting. He's the guy who stands in the corner at a party and watches everybody else . . . It may seem counterintuitive that somebody with social difficulty creates something that unites everybody.

The opening scene with you and Rooney Mara is remarkable.

It was both disarming and exciting because it gave me the opportunity to take a step . . . to understand a scene and find out in two nights who this character is and who he's going to be in the next few months. He does some heavy lifting. Hearing the scene over two nights and doing it 99 times silhouettes me to media. Into how received by it, how opened. That can be, how distracted he was get, and how intervened. It might because when he's in an encounter skin-to-skin.

David's direction was so incredibly in tune with what I was trying to do that somewhere in the middle of those 99 takes, I felt I got off to the wrong start. That is something that happens to me sometimes and to me tends to make me rage you, of course, and it's unsettling but he set the tone in the middle. That was the only time he did that and he said, "I think you got off the wrong start. I'd like to start again." At the risk of sounding pretentious, it's almost as if he's in your head. He is not only interested in what you're doing but he's interested in helping you somewhere new.

When Mark feels uncomfortable, he does a few things. One of those things is to really leave and to take himself out of the situation temporarily. Over the course of those two nights, we were able to modulate how that would work and that would be realistic and at the same, exaggerate.

E-mail the columnist at snapshots_2000@yahoo.com.

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